

# Public Libraries

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## The Library: A Strategic Community Center

Prof Josiah Morse, psychology and philosophy, University of South Carolina, Columbia

It is a commonplace in social psychology that a community is something more than a mere aggregation of individuals. A circus or beach crowd is no more a community than a hotel or boarding house is a home. A community is an aggregation of individuals who have been unified in some measure by one or more psychical or spiritual factors, such as loyalty to a common cause, institution, or *locus*; the consciousness of possessing common interests, ideas, beliefs, ideals, traditions, etc.; the habit of co-operating for the maintenance and development of social agencies and activities. And the virtue of this psychical element or elements, which make communities of aggregations, lies in the multiplying or creative power. A hundred men putting their minds and hearts and muscles together can accomplish many times more than the sum of their individual, unorganized efforts. Community-mindedness is thus literally creative and profitable; the addition and multiplication tables, which hold in the physical realm, are mysteriously brushed aside and transcended. This explains the phenomenon of a small population with a community soul or spirit accomplishing more and creating better living conditions than a larger population lacking this soul or spirit.

Of such a community center the library is the strategic center. That

this is not an extravagant statement will be realized by anyone who tries to offer another institution for this place of influence and honor. It cannot be the church, because the church is necessarily denominational and therefore serves only its limited membership; likewise, it cannot be the school, which serves mainly the children of its district; nor the Y. M. nor Y. W. C. A.; nor the theatre, nor any of the fraternal organizations, nor indeed, any other institution in the community. The library is the only institution that can and does serve all the members of the community without distinction. It is the hub of the social wheel.

To understand the nature of this service it is necessary to go a bit into the philosophy of living. What is the object of life? Is it not to develop to the fullest the capacities of the individual in such a way that he may enjoy the largest and most satisfying life himself and at the same time contribute to the enrichment of the life of his fellows? I am not thinking, of course, of the multitudes who have no life-plan or purpose; who exist, like Topsy, from moment to moment; but rather of intelligent beings with normal hopes and ambitions. If their life purpose is as I have indicated it, then the problem arises as to how it may be realized. Many human activities

bring about some measure of self-realization and development, though not so many in our machine age as in former times. The labor of employes in factories, mills, shops, mines, and even offices is more deadening than developing, but some compensation for this lies, theoretically at least, in the increased leisure that the workers enjoy, or will enjoy when the four-hour day, which the mechanical and industrial engineers predict, shall have arrived. However, whether the increased leisure will be a benefit or a harm will depend, of course, upon the use that is made of it. If it will mean more time for automobiling, card-playing, moving-picture going, or sheer idling, so far from being a benefit it may prove a serious injury. And there are many indications that will mean that and nothing more, unless a prompt and concerted effort shall be made by the leaders of society to furnish the masses with wholesome and worth-while interests and occupations for their leisure time. Herein lies the library's great opportunity.

Reading is a leisure occupation or recreation, and in the literatures of the various races of man there is an abundance of material to satisfy every interest, desire, need and taste of every individual. And not only to satisfy, but to stimulate and cultivate the memory, imagination, reason, the emotions, sentiments, and aspirations; indeed, every element of the individual's mind and character. The recent popularization of the sciences opens up new vistas abounding in marvels that excel the wildest dreams of the writers of the Arabian Nights and stretch and fill the imagination and reason to a hitherto unknown degree. Similarly, the popularization of history and art enlightens, cultivates, and liberalizes by giving a deeper understanding and appreciation of man and his works, his virtues and faults, the essential sameness of the different races and their superficial differences, and by giving him a longer and truer perspective and a wider horizon. Pure literature mul-

tiplies indefinitely the life of the individual by enabling him to enter into the lives of the characters portrayed in the novels, dramas and biographies, and the poets give him an appreciation of the various aspects of nature to which their souls were sensitive in a heightened degree. Critics and reformers show him the imperfections of methods and institutions, thus enabling him to perform the functions of citizenship more intelligently. In short, reading not only makes a full man, as Bacon said, but a bigger, better and happier man and citizen than he could possibly be without reading.

All this is trite enough, and yet despite the Niagara of printers' ink flowing through the presses of our newspaper, magazine and book publishing plants there is relatively little reading done. Doubtless, there are many reasons for this, but the most important, I think, is the lack of the reading habit. The reading habit, like all others, must be formed in the early, plastic period of life. If one has not read a book at all during his childhood, puberty, and adolescence it will be practically impossible to get him to form the habit and derive pleasure from it later. A book in his hand weighs heavier than lead and its ink puts him to sleep as effectively as chloroform. The moral of which is that if we are to have the people spend a fair portion of their leisure time in reading we must see to it that the reading habit and appreciation of literature is formed in their childhood. Hence, if the library is the strategic center of the community, the children's room is the strategic center of the library. No expense of time, effort, or money should be spared to make it as attractive as possible for the little ones. Every device that ingenuity can invent should be employed to entice them into it and to get them to take books from it. For once the habit is formed it will become their second nature and they will deny themselves other pleasures rather than do without reading. Here the librarian can profit by the experi-

ence and example of the music directors, supervisors and teachers in our larger communities. Confronted with a widespread ignorance of and apathy for good music on the part of the public, they set about to remedy the situation by introducing into the grammar and high schools courses in music appreciation in which the compositions of the masters are played on the phonograph, the history of the composition given, its motifs explained, and a brief biographical sketch of the composer presented. As a consequence, music dealers report a marked increase in the sale of records, and symphony orchestras find their most intelligent and appreciative audiences among the school children. At this rate the next generation of orchestras will not need to be subsidized by millionaire patrons. Something akin to this might be attempted by librarians in co-operation with school superintendents and teachers.

In stressing the importance of developing future readers, I do not mean to underestimate the importance of

holding and cultivating the present ones. The librarian should run his library much as a modern business man runs his business. He should strive to keep his old readers and be constantly reaching out for new ones. New ideas will come from new contacts. A card index should be kept of every user, his interests and tastes studied, and books and articles along these lines suggested to him. When a new book that might interest him is accessioned, a card to that effect should be sent him. Thus, I visualize the librarian not as a custodian and guardian of books, as too many of them in the last generation were, nor as one primarily interested in the mechanics of his profession, in rules and fines, but as an educator and community leader and organizer, knowing how to co-operate with parents, teachers, preachers, superintendents of hospitals, managers of mills and factories, and even superintendents of reformatories and prisons with the view to the betterment and enrichment of the individual and the community life.

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### Fiction: Sterling and Plated

Mrs Reuben Cameron, reference librarian, Carnegie library, San Antonio, Texas

With the subject Sterling and plated fiction before the startled imagination, there flashes an array of silver ware. This ranges from the handsome, heavy sterling, aristocratically hall-marked, to its more fragile counterpart, the light weight sterling, followed in close succession by the fine substantial Sheffield plate. From this class there is rapid descent to the tawdry, unreliable electro-plated ware which satisfies the eye and taste of the indiscriminate. The display is an imposing one; I feel that each type is represented by the fiction of today.

The true ideal of fiction, according to Howells, affirmed itself in Europe about 300 years ago in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, which is still so generally read as to be almost popularly read. This type developed, with its many

exponents, until the present vast number has been reached, but standing out clearly and definitely are the truly great creations, bearing the hallmarks of masters, the great novels and novelists too familiar for us to dwell upon. The common standard of greatness may be applied to each. To fulfill this standard, the requirements are invariable; the choice of subject must be of universal interest and the subject must be treated with humanity and simplicity. To attain this it is necessary that the characters live, that the environment is real and that a wholesome feeling for nature prevails so that the metal may ring true. Surely one is not presuming too much when one ventures the names of Tolstoi, Rolland, Bennett, Galsworthy and Hardy as our representatives among mastersmiths?

Every period has its chroniclers, brilliant, relentless portrayers of their age, its wisdom, its foibles, its morals, its fashions, its tendencies. Wells, Lovke, Swinnerton, Hergesheimer, with perfect technique and engaging charm, belong to this class it seems to me. Whether the era in which this generation lived will be of sufficient interest for those who follow us or whether the metal of their craft will grow thin, as the lighter silver, remains to be seen; but it is hardly possible that the chroniclers of a generation which has passed thru a great world catastrophe can be overlooked.

The transition period in the silver industry began in 1840 with the discovery of a method of welding silver to copper plate. This was quickly succeeded by a process of welding silver with light colored alloys, bringing silver service into its popularity. Its beauty, its elaborate design and lower prices brought about profitable sales and the nobility and gentry were converts to its prestige. The book industry ran parallel to this industry. Lower prices on books, increased leisure among the people, and improved systems of education have rapidly built up a large reading public.

Among these are thousands of the great working class who demand not only the "best books of all sorts, but also the pleasant literature of the day." Men and women who frankly confess that they are too tired to think, eagerly grasp the popular substantial fiction of McCutcheon, Porter, Wright and Grev for hours of forgetfulness; and, while the plot is often strained, the romance too obvious, yet the author's love of nature, his sense of adventure, or the charm of his character delineation satisfy the reader, and the book has accomplished its purpose.

Then we come to the tales of wild adventure, deep mystery, and of love

and intrigue which are written for no other purpose than to over-stimulate the imagination of the reader. These belong to the electro-plated type and are as passing and unworthy of notice as the cheap articles of near silver which are flooding the market.

In discussing fiction one cannot overlook the fiction librarians know as "closed shelf fiction." This has been the subject of much controversy and at present a question of special interest is: Can a writer be justified in treating the sexual aspect of life with freedom or should he be subjected to restrictions? A point of examination, necessary in this class of fiction, is that the theme and intention of the writer should be considered. His book should not be judged by its contents alone, but also by the meaning of those contents and their relation to life in general. The author offends decency when he allows himself license of description which goes beyond the necessities of his subject. Mr Dreiser, for instance, is successful because he pictures a clear and comprehensive environment, and the action of a certain type in that environment appears logical and natural. Hamsun belongs to the same category, but frequently a writer believes that he is giving a new message to humanity and there is more in it than a wish to be unduly outspoken. The result is information which most mature people already possess but do not wish to see paraded.

In summarizing, Fiction: Sterling and plated, I should include in the former only those books containing a message or a clear, consistent delineation of a character or group of characters; a something, the luster of which will softly glow undimmed thru the years, discarding the plated, the sensational big sellers, whose fame and object are based only on garish advertisements and on book-sellers' receipts.

"There are unfathomable depths in the human soul, because at the bottom is God himself."—*Sabatier*.

When I open a noble volume I say to myself, "Now the only Croesus that I envy is he who is reading a better book than this."

—*Philip Gilbert Hamerton*



## The Ideal Small Library Building for the Southwest<sup>1</sup>

Lillian Gunter, chairman, S. W. Small Library committee, Gainesville, Texas

For the purposes of the Southwestern library association, the Southwest means Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Old Mexico—truly an empire in which libraries are a recent development, very few having been built here before the beginning of the twentieth century. We are just now on the eve of our first really great development of library service. What has gone before is merely a prelude.

To be of the generation to consider first the fitting of our library buildings to our peculiar needs is a great privilege. We of the Southwest like to pioneer, or we would not be in the Southwest. Pioneering, even in library plans, has its thrills and dangers, but Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas have gone to work enthusiastically and the other states concerned will soon join us. We are breaking ground. We may not accomplish the impossible, the ideal building, but our small libraries will be considerably nearer the ideal because of our work, and our own vision will be broadened and clarified.

Many architects claim the American library building is most completely worked out and standardized of any American contribution to the art of building. Librarians, on the contrary, often assert the American library is the illest adjusted to its work of any of our public buildings. Since library methods are still in a flux, we may expect to hear claims and counter claims in the matter of a suitable housing for books and library service. As you well know, a sort of standardization has really taken place in library building. Most public libraries are easily recognized by an indescribable something that binds them together despite differences in material and architectural styles. Many times these stand-

ardized libraries have been duplicated in the Southwest, where their faults were emphasized and their very good qualities became faults because of different climatic and social conditions.

We have been asked to consider, however, not the ideal small library, but the ideal small library for the Southwest. That involves an attempt to differentiate the Southwest from the rest of the world, which means a close scrutiny of our climatic, physical, social and financial conditions.

Let us state our proposition, clearly define its limits and call attention to the major difficulties and essential details of our problem. In the first place, you notice, we are only considering the small, inexpensive library. It is in keeping with the social philosophy of the Southwest, which is that the best is none too good for the common people, that we should begin our campaign for a greater library development by planning to give value received in really efficient, tho inexpensive libraries for our little prairie communities.

At first glance, our chosen territory may seem so enormous as to preclude any sort of homogeneity on which to lay our foundation, but we all know that, today, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas live under practically similar conditions, while northern Louisiana and Arkansas have conditions resembling those of eastern Oklahoma and Texas. In one respect the climate of all this broad region is alike—our short, mild, but variable winters. This one fact modifies our ideal small library by rendering it unnecessary to provide the elaborate, expensive heating systems of the North and East except in the extreme northern range of our territory. Likewise, the shallow frost line reduces the amount of excavation necessary for a small building, while our extremes of wet and dry, acting on soil so often unsuited to

<sup>1</sup>Presented at Oklahoma library association, Chickasha, April 7, 1924.

the maintenance of a dry cellar, our comparatively low land values, level prairies and frequent high winds all suggest the elimination of basements and a spreading of our small library buildings over more territory rather than going down in the ground or up in the air for more room. This spreading out or confining ourselves to one story suggests a thoughtful consideration of patio and roof-garden reading rooms. El Paso has recently demonstrated their usefulness.

Climate will have still another effect on our library. All over the designated territory the sunlight is intense over a very long period of the year, therefore shade must be thought of as well as light. But, above all else, our comfort is made or marred by the southern breeze that tempers the heat and makes life comfortable nine months in the year. Let us face our library and design our windows so as to command this cooling breeze and bring it by cross draughts or otherwise to every part of our building. For this reason, the high windows so often recommended for libraries are a mistake in the Southwest. They cut off the breeze and so diminish comfort. I know a comparatively new library in North Texas that spends less than \$50 a year for gas to heat it comfortably and more than \$70 for electricity, most of which is consumed by the electric fan, necessary five months in the year to make life bearable for the librarian, all because a New Yorker's enthusiasm for the economy of wall space and other desirable qualities of the high window tempted the builder to forget differences of climate.

The placing of high interior stacks should be considered from the same angle as they are quite as effective as high windows in cutting off the breeze. With our blowing rains to contend with, all outside doors should have some sort of porch or shelter over them.

The ideal location is worthy of as serious consideration as the building itself. Land is still comparatively

cheap in our small towns where our small libraries will be built, so the site must be large enough to permit a circulation of light and air on all sides. Ample provision for future growth and for verdure all around should be made, but unless the library is part of a community house (and that is another story), it should not be located in a public park. Instead the too few public parks should be conserved and the library placed near the business center of the small town, on or just off the main street. Then watch it grow! Note how much more quickly it will reach out into all phases of the community life than if one had to walk across a park or up a flight of steps to get to it.

Building material in most of the Southwest nearly always means wood. Anyone seeing the adorable bungalow churches in California will never again deplore the use of wood in these inexpensive public buildings. Brick, cement and stucco are good where there are sufficient funds. The possibilities of cheap clinker and header brick might be profitably considered. Some very interesting experiments are being conducted in the East with "rammed earth" for small and medium-sized buildings, while adobe construction is more familiar to us. A brave community might evolve something really original by a sympathetic study of the methods of using both these materials. Our climate and rapidly growing population do not justify the use of expensive materials in our small library buildings.

However, the world over, most mistakes in construction of small libraries have been because of neglect to correlate the floor plans with the work to be done in the building. Ease and economy of administration, and comfort of both the public and the librarian, are of prime importance, but in spite of a certain standardization of library plans, this disideratum has seldom been accomplished to the fullest extent. For adaptation of the floor plan of the building to library work,

rather than the adaptation of library work to the building, is a comparatively recent development.

Your experience and training points to you as the trail blazers in the Southwest. Show your people what you want, and why you need it and you will get properly planned buildings instead of architectural happen-sos. If there are funds for embellishment considerations, judicious use of wall fountains, which would be beautiful in themselves and useful in cooling the atmosphere during our long summers, is advisable, and fire-places, while beautiful if properly built and properly used, are a moot proposition that should be approached cautiously because of expense of building and upkeep. These are details that would have a more or less local significance. Attention to detail is what makes the perfect library. That, also, is where you have a chance to express your personality. As chairman of the Small Library committee, permit me to remind you that a full account of your reasons for deciding on these and all other details will be indispensable to the committee as a whole if we are to make a contribution to library planning that will justify us in entering the field.

To satisfy our needs, we must have many ideal small libraries. There is the small city library, costing perhaps \$20,000; or the county library; the town library, costing down to \$5,000, and the county branch which might cost \$1000, more or less.

With the spread of county libraries, this last is going to be a frequent and important development of library service in the near future. Such library branch may sometimes take the form of a community center building which, nevertheless, must be adapted to library service.

To see a library at every cross-road, we must reduce our estimates to the lowest possible price and make every foot of space do double duty. Properly designed, these inexpensive buildings will render more perfect service

to their community than is often given by the familiar old style more expensive and monumental buildings.

So far I have not spoken of beauty in the ideal small library building. Beauty is an indispensable factor in the ideal always, but beauty and fitness go together, and a library plan that suits the work to be done, the climate, the pocketbook and the social conditions, cannot be ugly. If it is a simple plan, the simpler its material and architectural development, the more beautiful, according to the eternal verities.

We of the Southwest have long grumbled that our libraries did not fit. Now we have challenged the world, at least the library world, to watch us mould things nearer to our heart's desire. To live up to this opportunity we must go into this subject diligently and deeply. General principles, such as I have just laid down, are necessary, but comparatively easy to formulate. The real work now begins.

#### Handicaps in Life

To look for judgment and experience in youth.

To endeavor to mold all dispositions alike.

Not to yield in unimportant trifles.

To look for perfections in our own actions.

To worry ourselves and others about what cannot be remedied.

Not to alleviate if we can all that needs alleviation.

Not to make allowances for the weaknesses of others.

To consider anything impossible that we cannot ourselves perform.

To believe only what our finite minds can grasp.

To live as if the moment, the time, the day were so important that it would live forever.

To estimate people by some outside quality, for it is that within which makes the man.

To remember failings so strongly that the mind has no eye to see other qualities which are admirable.

## In the Letter Box

## Who Says Music Week Is Not Necessary?

The following has just been presented to the librarian of a public library in the South:

Dear Miss

Herewith opera score which I have kept out longer than I should, and I appreciate your reminding me. My boy will pay you whatever is due on it but please mark on bottom hereof what the charge is.

I want another one and don't know how to spell it, so will just make a stab and trust you catch it:

Richard Wagner's "Gotta Damarung" (?)  
It is the story of the mermaids—where they let a pot of gold be stolen by Friedsieg.

Sincerely,

MRS CATRON

## Distribution of Political Literature from a Library

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

"Perplexed," in your April issue, inquires what one should do "when a citizen of standing (*sic*) brings to the library a supply of printed material setting forth the aims, objects, plans and purposes of a political party and asks to have it distributed from the library.

My advice to "Perplexed" is to do exactly as she would were the citizen not one of standing.

The underlying question, however, is interesting. It is not whether a political pamphlet is fit material for free distribution from a library, but whether a library should consider itself an agency for the free distribution of propaganda at all. To collect campaign material and place it at the service of patrons in the reference room is one thing; to metamorphose oneself into a "Take one home with you" and a "Sandwich man," another.

The chief point to bear in mind would seem to be that if you set out a stack of G. O. P. oratory, you must be sure simultaneously to exhibit an equally imposing pile of Democratic spell-bindery. Also I. W. W., Socialist and Farmer-Labor appeals!

Beholding it, your citizen of standing will lose something of his enthusiasm and the librarian shortly be enabled to forget all about it.

If it is proper to distribute the pamphlet—The Republican party—the hope of America, it is proper to distribute the pamphlet, Why a man should be a Protestant. I am loathe to distribute either, but when requested I place them both in the reference room where those who seek may find.

In the long run it is probably as wise a policy as any. If, however, the general public—instead of, as at present, those who desire to use us as a channel for propaganda—desire it changed, we shall place a table in the lobby with a sign on it:

Persons and organizations having circular or pamphlet material for free distribution are requested to place it on this table.

For the present we are operating a library "free for circulating and reference." Not for distribution.

O. R. HOWARD THOMSON

Librarian

James V. Brown library  
Williamsport, Pa.

## Interesting Remarks

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

We who live in Boston are wondering how Chicago ever heard that the Old Corner bookstore "has almost if not completely disappeared," as stated in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for April. On the contrary, it has moved across the street to more commodious quarters and, with its beautiful display windows, its pillar-bookcases and small counters, it is even more attractive and busy than ever before. As for the "literary celebrities" whose passing you deplore—well—if there were giants in these days as in the past, they would congregate in the Old Corner bookstore. As it is, what celebrities Boston has may be seen there

on occasion: Amy Lowell, Mrs Deland, Alice Brown and the many other and lesser authors. They themselves would be the last to consider that their names ranked with the writers of the 60's and 70's, but they are not unknown to the country at large. In other words, tho the Old Corner bookstore is no longer on a corner, it is still very much on the map of Boston.

E. KATHLEEN JONES

### A Satisfactory Floor Covering

In 1907, the Public library at Kearny, N. J., was opened to the public. At that time the floor was covered with Nairn's battleship linoleum. This was perhaps the earliest installation of battleship linoleum in any library, and it will be interesting to other librarians to know how durable and satisfactory this floor covering has proved to be.

While other libraries have since used battleship linoleum, we feel that ours has given satisfaction, not only because of the worth of the material, but because of the excellent care which has been given to it by the janitors of this building. We have observed this battleship linoleum in other libraries where, because of unscientific and careless cleaning, the floor has lost its life and its color, chiefly due to the use of too much water. The water not only harms the floor, but it destroys the bases of the bookcases and movable furniture which touch the floor.

Our janitor says the secret of his success is to use as little water as possible and as much wax. He mops the floor with water only when it is badly tracked with mud. On other days he applies "Waxene," a liquid form of wax, which is rapidly absorbed by the linoleum without much physical effort, merely being rubbed in with a woolen mop. After the floor is water-mopped, then the "Waxene" is also applied. Some days the floor is merely touched up in spots where it needs it, without waxing the entire surface, but before this the floor is carefully brush-broomed.

The Library Bureau furniture, which was installed in the library when it was opened, is today in perfect state of preservation as a result of the careful cleaning methods. "Waxene" is a common trade article, which may be obtained at any good hardware store. It is made by I. H. Wiley Waxene Company, Boston, and costs \$2.50 a gallon. Bronze shoes to protect the bases of movable furniture will not be needed if these cleaning methods are practiced.

M. B. KILGOUR, librarian  
Public library  
Kearny, N. J.

### Opposed to War

In response to a recent inquiry regarding his views on war, President Ernest DeWitt Burton, of the University of Chicago, made this statement:

I am strongly opposed to war; absolutely opposed to any war of aggression, and wholly convinced that the American people should plan in every way possible to avoid the necessity of taking up arms even against a nation which may be doing or threatening to do us an injustice. I believe that all of us in America should set ourselves to cultivate that friendly interest in other peoples and that readiness to endure rather than to inflict wrong which will tend to exterminate the war spirit. But to the proposal made by some that we should pledge ourselves never under any circumstances nor in the face of any danger to ourselves, or to others, or to civilization, to resist aggression with force, I am quite unable to give assent. I earnestly hope that the time may never come when we shall have to use force against any organized body of our own citizens or any other nation, but I believe we must still by a policy of moderate preparedness hold ourselves in readiness to take up arms, if despite our best endeavors to avoid it this is nevertheless necessary.

The university has always stood for freedom of thought and inquiry. It deprecates the creation of organized partisan groups, especially on the ground that this is unfavorable to that calmness of thinking and discussion which is requisite to rational decision.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. This does not mean vociferous declarations, nor seizing Heaven's liveliness to serve selfishness and greed.



Monthly—Except August  
and September

## Public Libraries

M. E. Ahern, Editor

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Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

### Going to A. L. A.

"GOING to A. L. A.?" is a question that is heard these days wherever two or more librarians meet, even in passing. And always there is the joyful rejoinder, "Yes, indeed!" or else, "No-o, I can't go this year"—always with a sad drawl of the words, as if the speaker were unwilling to go on record lest by making the definite statement he, or more often she, should lessen thereby a lingering chance that might develop into a real possibility.

It is expected that the meeting at Saratoga Springs will be one of the notable gatherings of recent years. It

will be the second time that the A. L. A. has gathered there, but undoubtedly the spirit and atmosphere will be distinctly different from that which prevailed in 1918 when hearts and minds were concerned most with plans and purposes of book service to the enlisted men, and only things of necessity in other fields received attention. But this time, the most encouraging prospects for general service and development loom ahead, and, in view of what has been accomplished since that other meeting, it may well be a time of interest for everybody.

### The Sign of Belief

THE announcement of the generous gift to the A. L. A. from the Carnegie Corporation, given elsewhere, must come as the balm of Gilead to a weary traveler to those faithful members of the association who have given the best of their equipment thru the best of their years in honest effort to fulfill the ideals of the craft and especially to provide "The best books for the greatest number at the least cost."

For the gift means infinitely more than the greater service and larger activity which it will allow the A. L. A. to take on, valuable as those aims may be. It indicates, in addition, a belief in the efficacy of library service as a means of raising the intelligence of the people in every community that has library service. It means that the library belief of Andrew Carnegie has not been obliterated in the organization which he founded to carry on his

great work. It means a recognition of the loyalty of honest librarians to the ideals which library service has taken for its own. It means, in a measure, that what has been, what is being done and what is proposed for further action meets by so much the approval of a body of wise, deliberate, unemotional business men, able and accustomed to stripping to the core the multitude of interests that are every year laid before them for consideration for assistance.

If this gift comes to the A. L. A. unsolicited, or by request, from that organization, it must be because there was back of it a belief in A. L. A. aspirations and a desire to be co-partners in bringing those aspirations to fulfillment.

The Executive officers, particularly the secretary, Mr Milam, deserve the hearty commendation of everyone for the presentation they must have made of the opportunity A. L. A. work affords to those who have it in their province to be of so great assistance to such a worthy cause.

That the purposes of the A. L. A. and the plans for carrying them out have met with approval of the Carnegie Corporation is no small thing and the membership may reasonably rejoice. And so there goes up from the membership an expression of deep gratefulness for the opportunity afforded by this gift and, as well, a renewed purpose and hope to meet to the fullest the expectations which such a gift sets forth.

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### Understanding Administration and Coöperation

THE report on p. 258 of the recent conference of catalogers at Indianapolis is worth careful reading not only by catalogers, but by those who are charged with administration problems. The same thing may be said of the survey made of the circulation department in the Public library of Waterloo, Iowa (29:180-181). The information, the real knowledge, which such proceedings produce, are worth much in the evaluation and purposeful plans necessary to the success of every institution, large or small.

The statement heard very frequently from trustees generally and from the heads of large libraries, of the practice of appointing a good librarian or a competent department head and leaving matters in their hands, has become a truism. There is sound wisdom in

such a policy. One frequently sees illustrations that confirm a belief in it. At the same time, such a situation may resolve itself into a detriment to the educational progress of the library and to the consummation of the best plans of the very people toward whom it is held. There is much to be said in favor of an *intelligent* interest on the part of a board in the plans and proposals of the "competent librarian" that has charge of the institution. *Intelligent* interest forbids anything detrimental to the best success of the work. It gives a feeling of assurance to the "competent librarian" to know that the approval and confidence which he receives from his board are understanding and professional and that at any moment he can take up a discussion without preliminary explanations.

The conditions or the situation in the care of the head of a department is not different. A feeling of certainty because of a *real* knowledge of facts and what produces them adds a tinge of enthusiasm to the spirit of the head of a department. If this knowledge and feeling are met with a like attitude on the part of his chief the result is advantageous to all concerned. The

absence of such factors is the cause of much that is detrimental to public service.

So the fact that there are reports such as those in the Waterloo survey and in the Evansville records is encouraging to the hope of that service which will be rendered ultimately, making library work really an integral part of education.

### The Joy of Service

The following letter received by Mr Alexander Johnson is valuable as a bit of reviewing and as a side-light on the business of living. It has particular interest for librarians who take their business seriously:

My dear Mr Johnson:

I have read your *Adventures in social welfare* from beginning to end with that satisfaction which comes from perfect agreement with your point of view and delight in your actual accomplishment.

I have been reading a lot of novels of the Central West, in connection with the Pulitzer prize, and I should like the authors to have taken to heart your saying on p. 445—"It is as much our function as Red Crossers to recognize the disaster of being a community of dull, stolid, joyless people as the disaster of a fire, a flood or a tornado."

What I miss in these novels about "Main Street" is just what your book gives me—the thrill that comes when a man takes up the struggle against dullness and social stupidity as an adventure. The great thing which I have found in your book is not merely the possibility of doing a great many things, but the exhilaration which comes in the doing of them.

Your book also confirms me in the feeling that the various organizations for social service are developing into a new kind of church—a fellowship like that which Professor Royce described as "the beloved community." It has already become "as much concerned with the promotion of joy as with the assuagement of sorrow." Your book helps those who are working for a better organization of all the higher life of each community.

Sincerely yours

SAMUEL McCHORD CROTHERS

20 Oxford St.  
Cambridge, Mass.

### Help Sought by the American Legion

A letter has been received from Garland W. Powell, national director of the National Americanism commission of the American Legion, Indianapolis, Ind., asking PUBLIC LIBRARIES to assist in locating those concerned in the following paragraphs:

There are about 18,000 World War veterans who served honorably in the World War and who, while in training camps or serving abroad, made application for naturalization, which was granted them. These men now are naturalized citizens but have never called for their final naturalization papers, which are on file in the Bureau of naturalization, Department of labor, Washington, D. C.

If these men will write to the Bureau of naturalization, Washington, D. C., giving their full name, present address, the camp they were serving at and the organization they were serving with at the time they applied for naturalization, final papers will be sent to them immediately.

Librarians can do a very desirable as well as commendable bit of service for Americanization work by making known, thru their local press, labor organizations or Americanization workers, the above statement which is issued by this committee of the American Legion.

Alfred L. Spencer, Savona, N. Y., is again active in pushing a bill thru Congress providing for an adjustment of parcel post rates as applied to the circulation of library books by mail. This measure is known as H. R. 7218. Each member of the A. L. A. is urged

to write his congressman at an early date, asking him to support the measure. Mr Spencer is of the opinion that it is entirely possible to have an early adoption of the measure.

### Signs of Growth<sup>1</sup>

As I read *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, a number of things come to my mind.

It is a far cry from the kitchen sink to librarianship but the kitchen sink, let me assure you, gives much time for thought. American life concedes no time in its budget for meditations and reflections, but happily or unhappily, the one to whom fate assigns the purely routine drudgery of housework has plenty of opportunity for philosophizing. Some things become clearer, others still puzzle. It always used to seem as if advancing years would bring very definite standards! Is it the times or is it the fault of the individual when they do not?

But one thing impresses me more strongly as the years go by and that is that American librarianship has stressed the technical side of the work to the exclusion of the literary. This, perhaps, is the natural swinging of the pendulum from the old-fashioned methods when a librarian spent most of his time reading to the method of today when the librarian has no time to spend in reading.

To meet wisely the great problems confronting the world today, inspiration is needed, and we know one great source of inspiration is literature. If librarianship is that great calling we believe it is, should it not pay more attention to this side of the work, not only in the individual libraries but at the state and national meetings and thru the professional journals? Can't the A. L. A. program devote some space to book discussions and papers purely literary, or can there not be a round-table for discussion of books new and old, worth-while and not worth-while?

<sup>1</sup>From a former librarian who has changed her profession.

Would it be possible for *PUBLIC LIBRARIES* and the *Library Journal* to have a section devoted to really critical book reviews, not the "best sellers," but really worth-while books, perhaps some that are not of late issue? The long hours and arduous work in a library allow little time for outside reading if one is to keep fit and clothed and normal.

Why not allow the members of the staff a certain amount of time each week for browsing, reading book reviews, glancing over magazines and keeping in touch with the new books as they come in?

In using some of the smaller libraries, I am impressed by the type of fiction purchased—an array of unknown, mediocre authors. One feels that the general public is fed on pap. So many of the strong, *virile*, much discussed novels are taboo, and by this I do not mean the smutty, demoralizing novels. One sees a great array of Oppenheim, Barclay, Montgomery, Porter and a host of other narcotics and a great lack of George, Beresford, Butter, Johnston—and one library in a small town debarred Main Street as dangerous! One wonders what a library would be like that contained only the books that a censoring board thought proper at the time of publication. I fear it would be a lacking library.

Has the library no responsibility in literary leadership? Of course a line must be drawn somewhere but, aside from children's books, I think it could be drawn more freely than is customary at present.

These rambling thoughts come as I look over the fence into the field from which I came.

AN EX

A friendly note from W. W. Bishop, University of Michigan, from Rome, April 5, brings pleasant greetings, with the news that the three Bishops are greatly enjoying Europe, where there is "no work, no telephones, no budgets, no professors!"

### As It Was in the Beginning

Charles Ammi Cutter was born in Boston in 1837. He entered Harvard college in '51, graduating second in the class of '55. There was in Harvard during Mr Cutter's time an unusual group of those who were afterwards to affect library interests—Stephen B. Noyes, Francis W. Vaughan, Justin Winsor, James K. Hosmer and Samuel S. Green. All these, with Mr Cut-

brew, but he never was ordained, the attraction to library work being too great, and in May, 1860, he joined the staff of Harvard College library. He at once entered into the bibliographical undertakings which the scholars of Harvard were pursuing at that time and many of the publications issued from Harvard during that period give special tribute to Mr Cutter for his bibliographical aid. The bibliograph-



Charles Ammi Cutter, 1837-1903

ter, became librarians of distinction in their day and four of them became presidents of the A. L. A. Other men of the same Harvard period who became distinguished are Charles W. Eliot, Charles Francis Adams and Henry S. Nourse.

Mr Cutter did not start out to be a librarian, but a minister. Graduating from Harvard at 18, he had to wait a year before being admitted to the theological school. He spent the year in Harvard College library and thus got his taste for library work. He did take the theological course, including He-

ical side of library work always had a special attraction for Mr Cutter's interest.

Mr Cutter remained with Harvard College library for eight years. Dr William Frederick Poole, who had been librarian of the Boston athenaeum for a dozen years, resigned in 1868 to go to the Cincinnati public library, and, on January 1, 1869, Mr Cutter became librarian of the Boston athenaeum, where he remained for 25 years. It was during his administration that the "library spirit" entered that institution. The catalog of the



Boston athenaeum, which Mr Cutter produced, was for many years the most significant piece of work of its day. It was issued in five successive volumes, 1874-82, and covered nearly 544,000 lines. This catalog had been undertaken before it fell into Mr Cutter's hands and no small part of his first labor on it was to bring order out of chaos. When one thinks of the lack of precedent in this sort of work, the amount of arrangement, proof reading, etc., covering a period of more than 10 years, some notion of the enormous labor involved in carrying the work to completion, with the elimination of mistakes, may be conceived. The catalog of the Boston athenaeum was undoubtedly a foundation stone of great service to libraries, and, though it has had several successors, all of them carry grateful acknowledgment of the great help received from Mr Cutter's work.

"Cutter's rules" for a dictionary catalog, prepared in 1875, was one of the documents exhibited at the Centennial in 1876 and forms a part of the U. S. bureau of education publications of that period. These rules have stood ever since as the North star for those sailing the turbulent seas of cataloging in their attempt to provide "keys to the house of knowledge."

The "Expansive classification" was to have been Mr Cutter's great work and there has always been a strong regret that this undertaking was not finished at the time of his death. While considerable work had been done in outlining the finality, it was not as it would have been had the work actually come thru Mr Cutter's hands. His classification was based on the principle of classification of all knowledge. It was original, scholarly and more minute than any classification of its day. He visited the British museum, trying out for several months there, his scheme in relation to a large collection. This classification was used to some extent before Mr Cutter's death but since has gradually given way to other schemes.

A work of Mr Cutter which still remains paramount is his Alphabetic-order table. This first appeared with the tables limited to two-figure numbers, but the need for larger expansion was soon felt by larger libraries. Mr Cutter, as may be perceived, was a very busy man and, to use an expression of his own, "But dear me! I have not found time to answer the demand which certainly is growing for three figures." But, moved by these circumstances and with his usual fine coöperative spirit, Mr Cutter gave an affirmative answer to the request of Miss Kate Sanborn, then librarian at Manchester, N. H., to extend the Cutter classification. When Miss Sanborn's work was finished, Mr Cutter found it quite distinct from his own conception and not based at all on his principles used in the two-figure tables. Mr Cutter then felt compelled to supply an elaboration of his own original, which produced the Cutter three-figure alphabetic table.

From the first of his active service, Mr Cutter had great belief in the power of the public library and his writings from then until the time of his death always stressed the power of reading in the development of a democracy.

Mr Cutter was one of those present at the organization of the American Library Association, in 1876, at Philadelphia, and was absent from its meetings only twice during his remaining years, one absence being occasioned by his last illness. He was president of the association at the meeting at Catskill mountains in 1888 and at the St. Louis meeting in 1889. He was honorary vice-president of the International library congress in London in 1897. At the time of his death, Mr Cutter had attended more annual meetings than any other member. He served on more committees and probably rendered more valuable service in the work than any other man of his day.

He was one of the early editors of the *Library Journal* and his contribu-

tion to its final establishment and later development was exceeded by none other. He was editor from 1881-1893, "in some years with an associate, but not always."

Mr Cutter was appointed librarian of Forbes library, Northampton, Mass., in 1894, altho for two years before he had worked seriously planning and shaping the preliminary work necessary to its organization. He remained at Northampton until his death in 1903. Perhaps this period represented his happiest library years. He arrived at a time when his ideas were strong and clear as to what the plans and purposes of his work should be; his surroundings were very pleasant and his standing in his profession was unquestionably at the front.

From all the library people who ever came in contact with Mr Cutter, prick any one, and you will draw the same drop always—He was the gentleman, gentle of voice and manner, considerate of the feelings of every one. He was never heard to speak unkindly or impatiently of any one. Bored he suffered gladly. They never knew from him that they were bores.

Of his assistants he was ever thoughtful, showing a real interest in their lives, even after they were no longer associated with him. His unusually kind attitude toward them was shown especially when they made mistakes. And when a reader found fault with an assistant, Mr Cutter took her part and, if necessary, dealt with her in private. His trust in the individual was so strong that he could never believe that an assistant would cheat in keeping her record of time due the library, or that she would use that time for personal ends, or for idle talk. Never idle himself, he seemed to sense it when his assistants were not using their time to the best advantage. He did not take them verbally to task about their derelictions, but would leave sharp little notes at their desks, calling attention to the point to be noted. For example, one girl was stamping plates in an illustrated vol-

ume. The intervals between the stampings gave evidence of too careful scanning of the plates themselves, so the note which she found at her desk read: "It is not necessary critically to examine each plate before stamping."

Mr Cutter had relations with many generations of library school students. Each group doubtless has some pleasant memory of him. The last year of his life he went to Albany to tell the library school students about his Expansive classification. He was at that time working on the section of music, and he talked over his problems with them. One student of that day says that she remembers nothing of what he said, but that she retains a vivid impression of the respect which he showed for their opinions, and of the feeling of dignity which he gave them. Those who were so fortunate as to attend the first library school at Columbia, will remember how the leading librarians of the day came to lecture to the students and, incidentally, to observe how "Dewey's school" was coming on. Among those visiting lecturers was Mr Cutter. One delightful story which he told the class was about his wife, before she was Mrs Cutter. She was the first woman to be employed in the "catalogue" department of the Harvard College library and was paid the munificent sum of five and three-quarters cents an hour. Later, "because of her phenomenal celerity and unimpeachable accuracy," her salary was raised to six and three-quarters cents an hour. The youth of today may laugh, as did those earlier students, yet there are things as worth while as money.

But Mr Cutter's kindness was not confined to the walls of the library. A young friend of his was called upon to do some special cataloging about which she knew nothing. Mr Cutter told her that he would help her and he did. Coming into town on an earlier train than was otherwise necessary, he went to her desk every day as long as she needed his help.

Gardner M. Jones of the Salem public library used to tell what Mr Cutter did for him at the time when he was leaving the book business to take up library work, planning a visit to England between times. He told Mr Jones that there was to be a library conference at Birmingham during his stay in England, and advised him to join the A. L. A. before starting, that he might attend the meeting to the best advantage. On his arrival in Birmingham, Mr Jones found that Mr Cutter had written of his coming, so local guide books, etc., were awaiting him and he received a cordial welcome.

As a scholar, in his special subject, "books," he stood preëminent. He had a quick eye and a retentive memory, and no subject was wholly unfamiliar to him. Ask him for information on any topic, he was sure to have it, and it was at once available. He was an inveterate reader of books. The Boston athênæum was not always the wonderful collection it was when he left it, but that collection was due to his manifold knowledge. Novels, French novels particularly, had, of course, to be scrutinized. In this his power of discrimination was marvellous. He often sent reviews of the books he read to the *New York Nation* and sometimes would let himself burst into verse, working in the titles of current books as cleverly as Arthur Giterman does today. Catalogs of second-hand books and auction sales were ever at hand. They were his "knitting work," so to speak. During the many years when he was an editor of the *Library Journal*, he went early to the athênæum and did his editorial work until the hour of opening, when he immediately turned to his library work.

Such a flair for languages did he have that one assistant says that he never took to Mr Cutter a book in any language he could not read, or on any subject about which he did not know something. He even had little side-lines of which only his in-

timates knew. When Mr Cutter died, one of his classmates at Harvard recalled that in college his skill in mathematics was of the highest grade. He might have been a leading mathematician had he not turned to other subjects. Librarians are getting the benefit of that skill in the Cutter author tables.

With all his ability to see things in the large, he had an eye for the little things, too. Putting things *multum in parvo* appealed to him, as evidenced by his table of colon abbreviations for forenames. At the athênæum, books not considered proper for general circulation were kept in the locked room. The catalog cards of those books still bear in the call number the druggist's sign of the scruple. What reader, asking for such a number, would suspect that he was giving himself away? In Northampton, to save breath and time, he thought out a scheme of abbreviation for the different departments. The catalog department was to be spoken of as the "Cat," while the cataloger was known as the "cater." The periodical department was hidden under the name of "Od" and the person in charge of it bore the title of "odder!"

So absorbed did Mr Cutter seem to be in his books and work that people were surprised to learn that he lived a full and happy life outside his daily task. He loved to dance, as every one who ever saw him dance can testify. In 1894, when the A. L. A. met at Lake Placid, a group, including Mr Cutter had planned the next day to climb White Face, an all-day expedition. The day was rainy, but most of the group went, nevertheless. The party returned at night, wet to the skin. Mr Cutter's stray trunk was still missing, so a tall young man, more fortunate, fitted him out with clothes, the trousers of which had to be turned in more folds than London sanctioned, and the coat was cut on longer and larger lines than Mr Cutter's frame. Dressed thus for dinner, he spent the latter part of the evening

until midnight, beaming with pleasure, light of foot, showing no signs of fatigue.

Amateur theatricals always interested him. He might have been a commercial success on the stage, had he turned his main attention in that direction. Of course it is needless to say that he was a great theater-goer, familiar with the great plays and the great actors. At one time, having been able to do a favor for a theater manager, tickets for the various performances were sent to him. Here again he showed his kindly feelings towards his assistants, to whom he often gave tickets. Sometimes he would take them with him as a group, and sometimes individually.

Nor were Mr Cutter's interests confined to indoor recreations. For years he had a camp on Lake Winnepissaukee, to which his assistants were from time to time invited. He was a member, too, of the Appalachian club, delighting to walk whenever opportunity offered. At A. L. A. meetings, members who got up early enough might see Mr Cutter with a friend starting off before breakfast to see some spot not likely to be visited in the ordinary round.

Mr Cutter also had an epicurean taste. He liked good food and enjoyed it, but always with restraint, lest he lose this keen appreciation of flavors. Once when he was given a new dessert which pleased him, he expressed his enjoyment, but asked that it be not served again for a year, so that the enjoyment would be just as keen the next time.

He was a man of regular habits and for many years commuted between Winchester and Boston. So regular was his going to the train that other commuters living on the road used him as a clock. One day Mr Cutter, feeling the need of vigorous exercise, ran to the station. Those who saw him, thinking it must be late or Mr Cutter would not be running, hastened after him only to find him calm and peaceful, with considerable time to spare.

If character is indicated by handwriting, Mr Cutter may have had a bad one, for his chirography surely was not of the copperplate variety. He used to end his letters with a queer little wiggle of the pen. Two of his friends used to quarrel over that hieroglyph, one believing it to be intended for "yours truly," the other maintaining that it was "truly yours." One day Mr Cutter was told how the two friends came nigh to blows on the matter, figuratively speaking, and in reply to the question, "Which is the correct interpretation?" he smiled benignly and said, "Both." His humor was shown in another way, when a young librarian unable to find in the Expansive classification a suitable number for the book in hand, went to him for a solution. With a twinkle in his eye, he told her that the trouble was not with the classification, but with the book.

Conversation never lagged when Mr Cutter was in the circle. Grave or gay, he was ever ready to keep the ball rolling. A good story, a telling anecdote, a bit of wisdom, each had its appropriate place. The present generation of young people are the losers for there is no one to take his place in the same way. Mr Cutter was essentially a modest man with real humility in spite of his superiority over those with whom he was ordinarily associated. He was essentially a scholar but his mind bent readily to the enquiring student even tho a beginner.

Library extension was one of the vistas which Mr Cutter constantly tried to develop. It has been written of him in this connection: "He may be said to have had designs upon every lurking place of ignorance and upon every person whom there was a chance to benefit thru good literature and the beautiful in art."

To be ignorant of the lives of the most celebrated men of antiquity is to continue in a state of childhood all our days.—*Plutarch*.

### Library Activities in Paris

The library situation in France and particularly in Paris, is most interesting. To one at a distance, it would seem as if an element of strength and, consequently, something of results were lost when there are so many units working independently on the same problem. This is not meant in the spirit of criticism of what anybody is doing and is not without realization, also, that one at such a distance from the scene of action can hardly speak with judgment of the whole matter.

A letter from Mrs John L. Griffiths tells of the growing interest in the work of the Book committee on children's libraries, New York City, of which she is chairman, in providing libraries and story-hours for the children of Paris.

This committee, in a measure, is international in its make-up, having among its membership persons of power both in France and America—the French ambassador to the United States and the American ambassador to France, Brand Whitlock, Alfred Noves, Mrs Herbert Hoover, Mrs Laurence Vincent Benét, Childe Hassam, Frank Munser, William Roscoe Thaver, Dr E. C. Richardson and Dr E. F. Stevens, to name a few of the more than half a hundred eminent persons interested in the work.

The committee is now enjoying the results of its work for the children of Brussels, where its *PHeure Joyeuse*, a model in the new education which is coming to the children in that part of the world, is growing in power and place. Mme M. T. Gueritte of *La Nouvelle Education* sent out widely a questionnaire last winter about work in the children's libraries, which, if seriously considered, must prove helpful to book work with children everywhere. Some of the questions asked were:

1) Does your library contain books of different sort (fairy tales, travels, history, great men's lives, adventure, etc.)?

2) If so, have you observed that the children in your library prefer decidedly one kind to another? In that case, will you

give precise figures copied from your lending register, and indicate also whether certain books have been asked for more frequently than others (give always figures if possible)?

3) Do children, considered individually, ask for books at random? And if that happened during the first weeks or months, have you observed that, after some time, each child makes a particular choice, one asking for books of a certain kind, another for books of another kind, or do they all ask for the same sort of books?

4) In the case of particular choice, are the preferences of the child sufficiently marked to give indications of his character?

5) Are there children who do not know how to choose, hesitating always a long time before making their choice?

6) In that case, how and when do their hesitation cease?—a) do children cure themselves of such hesitancy? b) are you obliged to help them? c) do they consult spontaneously other children for advice?

N. B.—The results of such an inquiry will be much more interesting if you are able to note the age of the children and the books which they ask for, instead only of those which are suggested to them.

The following letter throws additional light on the subject:

The Book committee on children's libraries, New York City, the conduct of which is under the control of Mrs Griffiths, has had the kindness to think that Paris must not be behind Brussels and it has taken the fine initiative to consider the creation in Paris of a library for children, like it had made in Belgium a few years ago.

For this purpose, Mrs Griffiths, assisted particularly by Mme la Marquise de Ganay, offers to the city of Paris to establish, complete, a children's library in appropriate accommodations which will be put at her disposition by the municipality, and which she will deliver all ready to receive the furniture and the books furnished by the committee. She will carry, during the first year of its operation, the expense of the library staff, two members, they having received partially the technical training of professional librarians, general training and special training for children's libraries.

The library will be named *PHeure Joyeuse*, like the similar work at the



*Rue de la Paille* in Brussels, and will be installed, conforming with the desire of Mrs Griffiths, in the District of School of the Latin quarter, near the *Musée de Cluny* and the Boulevard Saint Germain, No. 3 *rue Boutebrie*. At this address, there has been, for four or five months, a parish school for girls which must be transferred into a new building near the *Parcheminerie*. At the departure of the school, the court-yard, which occupies all the ground level, will be made entirely new at the expense of the city of Paris and given to the Committee, who will install the library.

While waiting for the library room, the two librarians will prepare the collection of books for *l'Heure Joyeuse* in the premises of the parochial school put courteously at their disposal by the city of Paris.

Mrs Griffiths, to the end of the first year of the establishment of the library, will assume all the expense of repairs and administration, the task of the Committee being then completely terminated.

ERNEST COYECQUE  
Director

Municipal library service  
Paris, France

A note from Dr E. C. Richardson who has spent the winter abroad gives some interesting light on the work:

The new Paris children's library of the *l'Heure Joyeuse* group was expected to be ready for action by this time, but there was delay in getting the very admirable room so that this cannot be remodeled before midsummer or opened until October 1. Meantime the two admirable French librarians, Mademoiselles Huchet and Grunzy, have very pleasant quarters assigned for gathering and cataloging the books and are demonstrating the story-telling hour at the American library and in the French schools. I saw the David Copperfield library in London which links up a bit with the group in the fact that Mrs Griffiths is one of the vice-presidents. This is a sort of a club house for children with

one room downstairs and a couple of rooms up, and the Dickens atmosphere makes it an ideal and very live enterprise.

I hope to see the one in Brussels soon as well as the library school and the fragments which remain of the Bibliographical Institute. When I saw the children's library last it had 1,000 registered children. When I last heard from it, it had over 3,000. I think the Paris library is likely to excel it in attractiveness as well as in book selection. The French librarians and committees are doing some very good work on this line of selection.

We went out with Miss Carson to see the devastated regions libraries and were tremendously impressed with the number of children using them. One-half of the room, you know, in each of these libraries is given over to the children and the contrast between the sordid conditions without and the happy busy children inside was an object lesson.

The Bellevue library in Paris is organized on the same basis. Miss Carson had a gathering there one day of her French committee, together with the mayor and architect from Fargniers, the village which is being reconstructed by the Carnegie donation. The visit was just after schools were out and the children made a great impression. The visitors were pretty nearly dumbfounded by the statement that 700 books had been issued in that little spot to children the day before and that this was normal.

Going to Barcelona to look up the library school, we found there a very live group of public libraries, arranged much like the new French ones only with the row of low tables for the children across the front instead of at one end. An interesting matter there was a joint list of children's books on cards at the Central distributing library in Barcelona. There seems to be no other libraries catering to children with segregated books and special tables and chairs in Spain, except one left over from the American school in Madrid

which has a nice corner of children's books with table and chairs. The librarian-teacher—Miss Sweeney—is American and the library catalog and furniture are American.

I forgot to say that the Madrid libraries do cater to the children *over the counter* and their pedagogical museum has got up a very nice model list of children's books recommended for the popular and school libraries.

The American library in Paris, a collection of books made in War library service, with its enormous lines of endeavor, probably is and ought to be the leading force in library development in France. To repeat a few of the well-known facts in connection with it:

The American library in Paris was incorporated in 1920. In addition to the collection of books from the A. L. A., it received a contribution from the association of \$25,000 toward its endowment. Its first purpose is as a memorial to American soldiers, for whom it was first established, but second, to promote among students, journalists and men of letters of France acquaintance with American literature, institutions and thought.

The book collections in the American library in Paris number over 20,000 volumes, with 146 periodicals and newspapers. It has a staff of 15, of which nine devote themselves to the assistance of readers. The library's income last year was 141,442 francs.

Charles L. Seeger, who was the moving spirit in taking over the library with its service for the A. E. F., was made president of the board of trustees. A committee on ways and means, made up of 30 members, has been formed to spread information about the library and to collect interest and means for its development.

Annual membership in the library is 100 francs; life membership, 2000 francs; patrons, 5000 francs. It is highly desirable that a larger membership be secured for the library in order that the work may be continued and increased.

The American committee for Devastated France was the pioneer in providing public library service in this country, moved thereto by the dire conditions which followed cessation of the war. The work of this group, as presented to the library public by Miss Jessie M. Carson and others, is too well known to need discussion here. Thru the loyal interest of this committee, particularly on the part of Miss Carson, in addition to starting a number of good libraries, the library school in Paris has been organized and a professional spirit developed that will go far toward final success of the work.

There has existed, of course, in Paris for very many years recognition of the value of books in the process of education and, from an early day, what has passed for public libraries, that is, collections of books supported by taxation have been known in many parts of France; indeed, the story goes that one of the many things which Benjamin Franklin did in the early days was to start such libraries. There are in Paris something like 80 arrondissement libraries but it cannot be claimed that more than half of the strength of them is perceived by the public. However, the new ideas have considerably affected the library situation which has existed for centuries and the French authorities are not slow to recognize the advantage which this new line of service offers.

As was said, with all these different units working separately, there was danger of loss or at least of overlapping of effort or means and, so a year ago, a committee was formed called the *Comité Français de la Bibliothèque Moderne*. From the main committee, a sub-committee of action was formed which meets every two weeks to handle all current questions. This group is very alive and is pushing out in all directions. They are discussing plans for new libraries, for a library school, special books for children, etc. The committee is made up of the leading librarians in Paris and a few others

interested in educational matters. The American committee has given to it a certain foundation fund which will make it possible to really accomplish something.

If the various units give this committee power to act for them in Paris library affairs, there ought to be a library development in the future that would give larger returns for all concerned than with all these several units working separately.

### American Library Association

#### A significant gift

Grants amounting to \$26,000 for the current fiscal year were made to the American Library Association recently by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The grants were for five separate items, as follows: Temporary Library Training board, \$2,000; a survey, \$7,500; a study of libraries and adult education, \$6,000; a general editor and a proof reader, \$3,000; A. L. A. headquarters, rent and moving expenses, \$7,500.

The grant of \$2,000 to the Temporary Library Training board was primarily to cover expenses of the open meeting which was held in New York City, April 15-17.

The sum appropriated for a survey will be made available to the Committee of five on library service, of which Dr A. E. Bostwick is chairman. This committee was created in 1919 to make a comprehensive study of library methods and practice and to publish its findings. The work is divided into four groups: 1) the acquisition of books and their organization for use; 2) the use of books; 3) the relation of libraries to government and other institutions and agencies, including the activities of the libraries not directly connected with the use of books; 4) library personnel training, salaries and hours of service. The chairman has in hand a questionnaire, prepared by the committee members with the help of several hundred other librarians. The appropriation will make possible the employment of a director, the neces-

sary assistants, traveling expenses, and printing.

The study of libraries and adult education is to be conducted by a commission which the Executive board has voted to create, but the members of which have not yet been chosen. L. L. Dickerson, until recently with the United States army as advisory librarian, has been engaged as an executive assistant to aid the commission in its study. He is now assembling material and preparing tentative plans which will be submitted to the commission for criticism and possible action, when it is appointed. The vote of the Executive board authorizing the appointment of the commission defines the commission's duties as follows: "To study the adult education movement and the work of libraries for adults and older boys and girls out of school; to report its findings and its recommendations to the Council."

The appropriation for a general editor and a proof reader will make it possible for the Headquarters office to give more attention, and more prompt attention, to the manuscripts submitted for publication by the A. L. A.

The item of \$7,500 for A. L. A. headquarters, rent, moving expenses, etc., has already made possible the rental of space on the ninth floor of the John Crerar Library building. The office in the Chicago public library is retained.

The Committee of five on library service has prepared a questionnaire including about 4000 questions on the status and methods of American libraries, prepared by several hundred specialists in all branches of library work. Prior to printing and mailing, the questionnaire in typewritten form will be sent out for criticisms and suggestions. Librarians are requested to send communications concerning the questionnaire to Dr A. E. Bostwick, librarian, Public library, St. Louis, Mo.

The Home committee of the American library in Paris, Inc., is as follows: Prof E. B. Babcock, New York,

chairman; Mrs William Kinnicut Draper, New York; Dr Kendall Emerson, Worcester, Mass.; Prof William Emerson, Cambridge, Mass.; Prentiss M. Gray, New York; Frederick P. Keppel, New York; Dr H. N. MacCracken, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Carl H. Milam, Chicago; Dr Herbert Putnam, Washington, D. C., and Carl Taylor, New York.

Plans are being made for an informal round-table meeting of those interested in the art work of libraries at the A. L. A. conference at Saratoga Springs.

The subjects which will be discussed are of interest to small as well as large libraries, and include the following: clipping, mounting and filing of loose material, prints and color reproductions, work with schools, issuing of reference material, art exhibits, publicity and lantern slides.

Anyone interested should write to Antoinette Douglas, acting-chief of Art department, St. Louis public library.

The A. L. A. committee on Sabin's Dictionary of books relating to America has organized the following committee: E. H. Anderson, chairman; W. C. Ford, Andrew Keogh, A. S. Root and J. I. Wyer.

The *Bulletin* of the A. L. A. for March contains considerable if not complete information concerning the Saratoga Springs conference, June 30-July 5. Some of the interesting points are: Lists of new committee members and lists of sections and round-tables which will have meetings at Saratoga; the high points with regard to travel arrangements; details of the post-conference trip to Lake Placid Club and the Adirondacks, and an appeal for further contributions for the restoration of Louvain University library by Dr Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, a member of the American committee having this matter in charge.

The *Bulletin* contains 13 pages of tables of comparisons relating to teachers and library workers, grouped under

elementary school teachers and library assistants, high-school teachers and first assistants, school principals and branch librarians, and heads of departments in schools and libraries, these comparisons dealing with salaries, education and experience. Geographical charts show comparisons of salaries in different grades of librarians and teachers in 31 cities in America.

The March number of the *Bulletin* is worth far more than the membership fee which covers it and other A. L. A. privileges.

Melvin A. Traylor, president of the First Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago, has been appointed as trustee of the Endowment fund to succeed W. W. Appleton of New York, deceased.

The A. L. A. Headquarters office has been moved from the Chicago public library to the ninth floor of the John Crerar library building. The *Booklist* editorial staff and those in charge of sales and subscriptions, together with the stock of A. L. A. publications, the addressograph files, etc., remain in the Chicago public library. The other members of the staff have gone into the new quarters.

The mailing address for these will still be 78 East Washington Street, Chicago.

L. L. Dickerson, library specialist of the U. S. army, resigned, April 1, to assist in the study of adult education at A. L. A. Headquarters, Chicago, pending final action at the end of the current year. The library work of the army will be supervised by the personnel of its Library section, under the direction of Adjutant-General Davis.

It is announced from Paris that M. Ernest Coyecque, who is now *Inspecteur des Bibliothèques de la Ville de Paris et du Département de la Seine*, will retire in August and become consulting director of the Paris library school, October 1. M. Coyecque is at present president of the *Association des Bibliothécaires Français*.

Mlle Marie Madeleine Famin has been engaged for the work with children and schools in the Paris library school. Mlle Famin received her baccalaureat at the *Lycée Molière* in Paris. She was a student in the 1923 summer course in Paris and for the past year has been supervisor of children's work at the Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh.

W. W. Bishop, librarian, University of Michigan, will give a course of lectures at the Paris summer school on The Significance of library architecture in America. He will include one lecture on University library administration. All of Mr Bishop's lectures will be illustrated with slides.

#### Chicago travel notes

A special train will leave Chicago, via the Michigan Central railroad (Central station), Roosevelt Road and Michigan Boulevard, Saturday at midnight (Daylight Saving time), June 28. Sleepers will be ready for occupancy after 10 o'clock p. m. This train is due at Niagara Falls, 11 a. m., Sunday; will leave at 8 p. m., Sunday evening, arriving at Saratoga Springs, 7 a. m., Monday, June 30. Breakfast will be served in the dining car, Sunday morning before arrival in Niagara Falls.

Organized groups for the numerous sight-seeing trips will be arranged on board the train, and the time and place of meeting to start these trips will be announced before reaching Niagara Falls. The "Maid of the mist" boat trip, and the Great Gorge trolley trip are two of the most interesting, the latter consuming two or three hours' time and affording an opportunity of seeing the Falls from every angle, as well as viewing the scenic beauty of the surrounding country.

#### Railroad rates

Chicago to Saratoga Springs, one way. \$30.90  
Chicago to Saratoga Springs and return, Identification Certificate ticket, good returning, July 11..... 46.35  
Chicago to Saratoga Springs, summer tourist 30-day limit..... 53.35

#### Circle tours

60-day variable route tourist fare, Chi-

cago to New York by rail, boat to Norfolk and Washington, and rail via Pittsburgh or Cincinnati to Chicago ..... 65.25  
60-day variable route tourist fare, Chicago to New York, returning via rail to Boston, thence Montreal and Toronto to Chicago..... 71.42  
60-day variable route tourist fare, Chicago to New York, returning via Boston, Portland, Montreal, Toronto 77.76

#### Pullman fares

Chicago to Saratoga Springs, lower berth, \$9.50; upper berth, \$7.60; drawing room, \$34.

Make your reservations early, sending price of Pullman reservation desired, and for further information address John F. Phelan, Chicago public library.

#### Meetings in New York City

A series of open meetings of the Temporary Library Training board was held in New York City, April 15-17, for the discussion of the Provisional draft of the report of the board to the A. L. A. council. To these meetings, the Executive board of the A. L. A. had invited all librarians.

The Provisional draft of the report consisted of three parts including first, a short historical sketch which gave the background for the appointment of the present board; second, the findings of the board; and last, the recommendations. Following the main text there were appendices: a) Scheme of classification for library schools, b) Summer courses, c) Training classes, d) Apprentice classes, e) Teacher-Librarian courses, f) Correspondence courses.

Much of the discussion at the meetings centered around the appendices, altho these are to be presented to the council for general information, not for action, and are prepared for the consideration of the possible permanent board. Some of the suggestions made from the floor were that the library schools be grouped by kind, and not classed by grade; that instead of classifying library schools descriptions be given; that training classes be held for six months, not for seven and eight months; that regional training classes be established; that there was a def-



inite relation between salaries which may be received and amount of preparation which was required according to the appendices; that summer library courses were extremely valuable and the requirements for entrance and for faculties should not be placed so high as to hamper their effectiveness.

There were present at the meetings representatives from 12 of the 18 library schools, from training and apprentice classes, summer sessions, normal schools and teachers' colleges, and correspondence courses. The officers of the A. L. A. committees and sections and of affiliated and other national library associations particularly concerned with education for librarianship were in attendance as follows: The chairman of the A. L. A. Professional Training section and the Education committee, and the presidents of the Association of American library schools, the League of library commissions, the Special Libraries association, and the Library department of the National Education Association. Other librarians were present at one or more of the sessions and expressed their opinions on various points. A national gathering, therefore, conferred for three days on library training problems, for the benefit of the Temporary Library Training board, all members of which were in attendance: Adam Strohm, chairman, Harrison W. Craver, Linda A. Eastman, Andrew Keogh, Malcolm G. Wyer, together with Sarah C. N. Bogle, secretary, and Harriet E. Howe, executive assistant.

The text of the report is at this time being revised. The scheme of classification for library schools is to be worked over and an alternative one developed. Then this final report, with appendices, will be mailed to all members of the Council for study, and, upon request, to others interested. It is desired that the report be given careful consideration by all members that an intelligent appraisal of it may result before the conference.

"Read—and life won't be so tiresome. And neither will you."

### German Prices in Contrast

German books are not coming cheap any more, as they used to do in the years immediately following the war. A swing back to normal is, however, not to be lamented, for the abandonment of prices to the mark's abrupt declension was unwholesome business. Reason for the débâcle there was, more than one, but none came of trade generosity. Failure to maintain the old level was due in part to fear of unemployment, which would result if foreigners, lately belligerent, stopped buying German books. But the main cause was plain paralysis in the uncharted situation of currency depreciation. And the losses were heavy. Between invoice and payment the mark might shrink to a half, a third, or even a fifth or sixth of its initial value.

This condition has been gradually overcome. The introduction of the rentenmark, worth about the same as the ante-bellum mark, tends to stabilize prices, though the change from complete chaos came so suddenly as to surprise everybody, with the result that publishers are still skeptical of its permanence and hesitate to charge in advance for a whole or even half year of a periodical. Another reason for this difference is the shakedown occurring in many editorial offices and the tendency to feel out the possibility of restoring these publications to the old time size.

Consequently new German books are costing as much as English and American ones. In fact, it is claimed that Germany has become the highest priced country in the world, with the possible exception of the United States. Instead of having foreign publishers resort to German printers, as was common enough till last fall, some German publishers are now going abroad to print.

But with every allowance made, there are plain excesses existent. In a few houses, generally known among librarians, the charges are proportionately higher than for similar works issued here and in Great Britain. It is

seemingly a case of charging all that the traffic will bear, though the publishers are, no doubt, influenced by the fact that economic conditions have so restricted their market that only a few countries can afford to buy, and these are called upon to pay the cost of production and profit. We have been slow to apply a boycott, the usual method of resisting such unjustifiable increases, because of the hesitancy of technical men and scientists to give up their scientific works of German origin.

When Mr Harrassowitz was in this country in the fall of 1923, he replied, in response to protests against exorbitant prices charged by these few publishers of important scientific works, ". . . told me that American libraries surely must not object to his prices because they were buying more of his works than ever before." So much for the publishers of new books. They are encouraged to add more to their prices since they are selling more and American libraries are paying the difference.

A similar condition has arisen with respect to one class of antiquariat, namely, periodical sets. Numerous university and reference libraries have undertaken within the past few years to complete their files of a great many important titles, particularly those of a scientific character. This demand, coupled with the fact that the Germans cannot sell elsewhere, has, since the establishment of the mark on a gold basis, sent prices skyward. A Leipzig dealer who has a reputation for conservative, steady-going methods recently offered an eleven-volume set for \$865 or nearly \$80 a volume. The periodical was published in the late eighties. A file of a mathematical periodical was offered to a library for \$300 this year by the same firm which last year sold the same institution the same set for \$200. Contracts are being broken because of alleged inability of German second-hand booksellers to supply periodical sets contracted for at the price agreed upon. One dealer in recently explaining such a breach

of contract said that the German second-hand trade seemed "to have gone crazy." Naturally the only step for American buyers to take in the circumstances is to refrain from purchasing until German booksellers have recovered their sanity.

An American second-hand bookseller of considerable experience and good judgment recently returned from an extended business trip among the book stores of Germany. He reported that German book stocks were low and that they were not being replaced rapidly. The reason for this was, he said, that the German people, frightened by the collapse of the mark, were very anxious to keep any property which seemed to have intrinsic value. Books are regarded as such property and they are being zealously guarded. The bookseller considered that it would be some years before private libraries came on the market at reasonable prices. This, again, has had the result of increasing prices. A comparison of recent offers of periodical sets by German second-hand booksellers with those of English, American or French dealers will show that the German prices are out of line. This seems to be a favorable time to purchase in France and Italy. This Committee does not believe it to be a good time to buy in Germany.

M. LLEWELLYN RANEY, chairman

C. L. CANNON

ASA DON DICKINSON

HILLER C. WELLMAN

PURD B. WRIGHT

A. L. A. Committee on book-buying

The difference between the reading of a woman and that of a man is like that of a man's and a woman's dusting a library. The man flaps about with a bunch of feathers; the woman goes to work softly with a cloth. She does not raise half the dust, nor fill her own eyes and mouth with it—but she goes into all the corners and attends to the leaves as much as to the covers. Books are the negative pictures of thought, and the more sensitive the mind that receives their images, the more nicely the finest lines are reproduced. A woman (of the right kind), reading after a man, follows him as Ruth followed the reapers of Boaz, and her gleanings are often the finest of the wheat.—*Autocrat*.

### Boys' and Girls' Travel Clubs<sup>1</sup>

Vernon is a home-owning district, on the installment plan, populated by Americans and a little of every other nationality, Scandinavians predominating. The fathers are interested in labor unions; a great many of the mothers work to help pay for home and motor, and all belong to numerous lodges. The department store demands a large quota of the young people, and, altogether, the district belongs more to the non-reading type.

Vernon had a larger number of children between 10 and 14 years of age than any other, and these children were all eager to enjoy the importance of belonging to something. A Travel club was selected because it seemed more closely connected with books than anything else—from the beginning the use of books was emphasized and social activities frowned upon. Two clubs were formed because boys of 10 to 14 seem to despise girls, but as the clubs got more interested in the work we occasionally had combined meetings which were very successful and the children met in the right friendly spirit.

During September, I spoke to all children of likely age and aroused curiosity and interest. The first Saturday in October was the boys' meeting day and the first Thursday, the girls'. A goodly number of each came. These first meetings were devoted to explanation and organization of the club. I found that very few had the slightest idea of parliamentary practice and they have never quite forgiven Roberts' Rules because he does not allow thirding, fourthing, etc., the motion. The preamble of the constitution, which follows, was an original idea of the Boys' club.

Altogether, about 97 children have at some time belonged to the club, and of these, 40 to 50 have been continually interested members. More than

half the members are girls and their attendance was always much better than the boys'. During seven months of club work, the attendance was 769. Although I soon found that the boys did not turn up very regularly for meetings (and I think that Saturday is not a good meeting day), I found that they kept their interest in the club and I was able to use this interest to influence their reading; in fact, after a time, I attempted to get new members rather than worry over the delinquents, because once a member, they took greater pride in the library and I had something tangible to work upon. It was marvelous what insight I had into the children's characters by watching them in the club. At first, it seemed that the enthusiastic club would overrun the library and demand so much attention that they would crowd out the needs of the other children, but the clubs, library pin and various passwords made more and more children eager to join and little eight and nine year olds would read anything to make them future worthy members. Initiations were horribly noisy but a few gave excellent sidelights on the children. It is strange how some shrank from the very painless torture devised. On the whole, I do not think that much initiation is wise, as some child may cry and that may mean an irate parent. However, their interest is easily turned to other things. Passwords and high signs were excellent advertising.

The actual work was divided into three parts:

- 1 Countries chosen turn about by the clubs. It involved too much work if separate countries were taken by each club and I found that a common interest did a lot to break down foolishness between boys and girls.
- 2 Honor roll.
- 3 Scrap-books.
- 1) *Countries*

Meetings were devoted to the discussion of countries (North America was banned because the school work

<sup>1</sup>Report of the organization and work of the clubs of the Vernon branch library, Portland library association, Portland, Ore.

gave all interest necessary). Italy was the first country chosen. Of course all travel books were used and I made a list of material in the branch about Italy. I used everything that I could find and whatever I could get in the way of pictures, exhibits or books from other libraries. Certain children were made responsible for a particular subject, as they did not do very well if the choice was left to themselves. One meeting the boys reported on all Italian buildings, manufactures or pictures they had seen in Portland and it was surprising how interested they became in the architecture of the city.

Japan was the next country and a Japanese store loaned a very good exhibit. Thru the Japanese consul, I was able to get Mr Nakazawa, a student, to address a combined meeting of the clubs. This was very successful and the children have not yet stopped talking about it. Japan seemed to appeal very much and the publicity and excitement brought many new members and added parental interest.

France came next. We were lucky in having a neighbor who had lived in France for many years address the girls' club and show various fascinating souvenirs. The boys met at her home and reveled in the war trophies, etc. The children preferred the gory details of the French revolution but I was able to drag them from this absorbing topic to talk about old castles, etc. I found that it was necessary to learn stories about castles, people, pictures, etc., before a very active interest was taken and then everyone was anxious to look up historical tales for themselves. It seemed that had a more "grown-up" appeal than Japan.

Scotland was the last country we had time for—and I experimented. I found that the children did not know how to pick out vital things and were altogether too anxious to talk in statistics, so I decided to read Marshall's Scotland's story, and discuss each chapter. It worked splendidly and I found that the children were always eager to supplement with some of their

own findings. The story of Macbeth was a fine introduction to Shakespeare and all the members read Shakespeare or, in case of very small children, Lamb's Tales. They would sit breathlessly listening to the deeds of Black Douglas, Bruce, Wallace, etc., and, of course, Scottish chiefs and Scott were speedily read and discussed. It is fortunate that in my personal reading I have rather specialized on travel for I found that I could use every scrap of knowledge that I had. Several teachers and parents have mentioned the improved geography work of their children.

#### Summary of methods used:

- 1 Lists of books, magazine articles, etc., on country
  - 2 Use of pictures and art books
  - 3 Lectures by outside people
  - 4 Exhibits
  - 5 Games, such as writing questions on paper and shuffling slips; knowledge matches, worked same way as spelling matches
  - 6 Songs of countries sung by club members
  - 7 Assigned topics to talk upon; if children choose their own subject, they usually all take the same and are very schoolish and parrotly.
- 2) *Honor roll*

The children asked for this, so it was agreed that they read *approved* books of travel, biography and history. I soon found that the older children were gobbling up the little trivial books of travel so I made the choice of books depend upon me and in that way I was able to guide according to the needs of the individual and that is why all sorts of surprising things got on the travel list. But as there are certain books children should read, and some queer children who won't read without an ulterior motive, I was willing to supply the incentive if the right books were read. Only a few reviewed books to me and this only when I saw a child needed to be taught how to get to the heart of a book. The majority was on a very strict honor system, which worked well. I do not think that much reviewing is fair to the other children as, invariably, the reviewers bound in during the busiest

hours and *must* review their book. Besides, it is very easy to tell if a child is really getting the best out of his reading. I do not think that many of the travel books have much literary value. That is one of the main reasons why I would not let them read only from that section. Of course, adult biography, travel and history were open to the older children. Finally, two boys began to race so I stopped them at 100 books each. I visited their parents and explained our attitude, so there was no ill-feeling. Children who were unable to attend club meetings were made special members and did good work.

### 3) *Scrap-books*

The library provided a 12 page book, 10" x 7", for this work.

Each child chose a country (excepting North America) and collected pictures to describe that country. It was required that space be left for authors, great men, etc., and list of books in Vernon about the country of their choice. Writing and spelling were not considered, statistics and geographical details very much discouraged, but all work showing literary or historical interest was encouraged. But it was fearfully strenuous trying to make them realize that Michelangelo is of far more importance to Italy than the fact that the country is shaped like a shoe. It was really hard work making them *want* to know the glorious things about a country.

### Methods of procuring pictures:

I had to do it practically all, as the children were too young to go to town often, but several did bring in magazines, etc.

- 1 Visited all the consuls in the city; stamps and good advice were freely given and, in some cases, beautiful pictures. Stamps are excellent bait for a certain type of boy.
- 2 The bulk of pictures were obtained from travel bureaus, either by mail or personal visits. Everywhere the agents were most generous and some gave beautiful

material, because they thought the cause worthy and many bemoaned the lack of interest in the beauty and history of foreign lands.

The children were given their book and pictures in old magazine envelopes, procured from the periodical department, and were allowed about two months to do their book. Looking up material for authors, artists and musicians made the children very familiar with the different resources of the library. Some of the children did remarkably original work. Prizes were given by me for three best books, blue ribbons for next best books, then red and white ribbons in descending scale. The judging was done by a member of the children's department at Central library and all felt that it was very fair and right. I made a great mistake when I gave three prizes. Firstly, the theory is wrong; ribbons are quite enough distinction. Then I erred sadly by buying quite expensive books. (It is so hard to pass by lovely editions!)

### Social activities

I don't believe in such things at all but to prove conclusively to myself, I experimented a little, practically all in my own time.

- 1 The Girl's club met at my house for a Christmas party, really very jolly, but made them all intensely affectionate. Girl spilled cocoa on her best dress.
- 2 On a certain occasion, 13 girls were taken to visit the Travel club at the main library and to see the library. They were much impressed with the business-like procedure of this club and realized that parliamentary usage was not just a nasty disciplinary game invented by me. Two girls literally car-sick on the way made me very pensive about outside work.
- 3 At another time, 17 boys and girls went on a hike. The children were very good and obeyed all rules but a girl fell and broke her arm. The children behaved splendidly but it was very upsetting. I am now convinced that librarians should attend strictly to library business.
- 4 Grand rally of the clubs to end year's work. Clubs were at home to their parents, scrap-books on exhibition and prizes awarded. Really very successful and good library work.



On the whole, the clubs were successful and the three different objects caught children of all varieties, but I think that the best work is done with each individual child, whether thru ordinary floor duty or thru the medium of the club. That is why I encouraged membership even if it was for only some phase of the work. It was so much easier to interest the child when the child and librarian combined their efforts for some definite object.

We found that the clubs did not need much organization, only enough to make cohesion and to familiarize the children with parliamentary usage. The following did just that for them:

#### Preamble

We, the members of the Boys' club, in order to form a more perfect club, establish good reading, insure great minds, provide good travel reading, promote the general welfare and insure the blessing of wise reading to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain this constitution of the Boys' travel club.

#### Constitution

- 1 The name of this club shall be Boys' travel club.
- 2 The object of this club shall be to learn more about the boys and girls and customs of foreign countries, and to read the best books and stories about these countries.
- 3 Any boy who belongs to the Vernon branch library, who is interested in the club and is near his tenth birthday and not more than 14 years of age, may become a member.
- 4 The meetings of the club shall be every week, Saturday, at 1 p. m.
- 5 The officers of the club shall be, president, vice-president, secretary, reporter and sergeant-at-arms.

Sec. 1 It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings; to enforce observance of the constitution and by-laws; to decide questions of order; to call special meetings; appoint committees not otherwise provided for and perform such duties as the office may require. He shall make no motion or amendment; or vote on any question unless the club be equally divided, when he shall cast the deciding vote. He shall be *ex-officio* member of all committees, without right to vote except in cases of tie.

Sec. 2 It shall be the duty of the vice-president to preside in the absence of the president.

Sec. 3 It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep all records of the club; register the names of the new members; issue all notices required and perform such duties as his office may require.

Sec. 4 It shall be the duty of the reporter to keep the public informed of the work of the club, and he shall do this by sending a weekly write-up to the local papers, the *Alberta Visitor* and *Alberta Monitor*.

Sec. 5 It shall be the duty of the sergeant-at-arms to enforce any orders given by the president and to assist in keeping order as directed.

#### By-laws

- 1 Ten members shall constitute a quorum.
- 2 Any persons attending three consecutive meetings shall be admitted to the club and given a library pin.
- 3 Any member absent three succeeding times will be reported to a committee for action.
- 4 No officer shall be elected to the same office twice in succession.
- 5 Election of officers shall be by ballot and the majority of votes cast shall constitute a choice. The term of office shall be two months or until a successor is duly elected.
- 6 Telephone committee of three will be appointed by the president, and it is the duty of that committee to notify club members each week that the club meets on Saturday at 1 p. m.

Order of business—1) Call meeting to order. 2) Roll call. 3) Read minutes. 4) Report of committees. 5) Old business. 6) New business. 7) Meeting adjourned.

#### A Shakespeare Afternoon

For a year or more, charming possibilities of a Shakespeare afternoon had lingered in our thoughts. It had been among our fondest dreams to devote an afternoon to Shakespeare and the children, to try and show how children might be introduced to Shakespeare and learn to know him thru beautiful texts, rare prints and music. How Arthur Rackham's roguish Puck would captivate the children! Mendelssohn's music for the fairy comedy would carry them straight into the depths of the fairy wood near Athens. How the three weird sisters gliding ghost-like over the heath in some rare old print would rouse the children's interest and make them eager to know more of what was happening!

All this had been vaguely in our minds as something beautiful to work toward, something to have sometime in the future when conditions were just right for it. But one morning a mother came to us at the library. Perhaps she remembered the Ophelia of her childhood or longed for her ten-year-old Barbara to feel that "charmed though darkling sense of the supernal" which she had won from Shakespeare in her childhood. When this mother and others asked how they might interest their girl or boy in Shakespeare's plays, whether the children should read the complete text or start with the prose versions of the plays, we hesitated no longer. That decided things. In what more fitting way could we spend an afternoon of Children's Book Week than with Shakespeare and the children? An afternoon was chosen. Mothers, aunts, cousins, teachers, all who might be really interested, were invited. The Fine Book room was converted into a veritable shrine of Shakespeare. Around the room were displayed over a hundred rare old prints from the Shakespeare Rare Print collection edited by Seymour Eaton. They proved a fascinating study. There were prints of actors famous in Shakespearean roles, quaint old play-bills, interesting portraits of Shakespeare, and famous scenes from many of the plays.

On one round table with its bowl of daisy chrysanthemums, were arranged our beautiful editions of the plays: the Comedies of William Shakespeare, with drawing by Edwin A. Abbey, and the separate plays illustrated by Arthur Rackham, W. Heath Robinson, Hugh Tompson, Sir James D. Linton, Edmund Dulac, and others. Here and there fresh copies of the Temple and the Tudor Shakespeare in their scarlet leather bindings added a touch of color. On another table a rare and beautifully illuminated book of Shakespeare Ballads lay open at that most beautiful of all morning songs, "Hark, hark! the lark." A bowl of violets nestled between Shake-

speare's Greenwood and A Shakespeare garden. Walter Crane's Flowers from Shakespeare's garden lay near an architect's blueprint sketch plan of a Shakespeare garden. Several books on Shakespeare and music were grouped together with books of Shakespeare songs.

After discussing a few of the many ways in which children may be interested in Shakespeare, we turned to a very unusual and remarkable book, one written with rare perception and understanding. We had already grown to love dearly Barbara and little Trudion in Two children in old Paris. In Mrs Slaughter's new book, Shakespeare and the heart of a child, we were privileged to follow the children once more in their discoveries. This time they lead to all the delights and mysteries of Shakespeare's plays and finally to a visit to Shakespeare's own country. We could not resist reading every word of the beautiful and impressive prologue and bits here and there from the chapters, Shakespeare by the sea, and The fairies in Rome.

Prose renditions of the plays were discussed, the tales retold by Charles and Mary Lamb, the Historical tales from Shakespeare by Quiller-Couch, and that charming little set, The Temple Shakespeare for children. But it was strongly urged to let the children gain their first knowledge of Shakespeare from the complete text. The Temple and the Tudor Shakespeare were suggested as perhaps the best editions with which to start a child's own Shakespeare library. What could be a more charming or cultural gift, or one of more lasting benefit and inspiration than one of these little volumes! Why not start the girls with A Mid-summer night's dream and the boys with one of the historical plays, to be followed each birthday and Christmas with an additional play? Both the Temple and Tudor editions make unusually attractive Christmas gifts as they are bound in red leather, the Temple edition in a rich, dark red, and the Tudor in bright scarlet.

The afternoon ended with a few illustrations on the victrola of some of the Shakespeare songs. We had hoped to have a few of the speaking records of Sothorn and Marlowe, Hamlet's soliloquy, "To be or not to be," the casket scene from *The Merchant of Venice*, Shylock's speech, Antony's oration, and Brutus and Portia from *Julius Caesar*, but we were unable to secure them in time to include them in our program. But with the opening strains of Mendelssohn's music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, we forgot our disappointment and were transported to a fairy wood where we heard the fairies singing "Over hill, over dale," and later they wrapped the fairy queen in a snake skin and sang her to sleep with the fairy lullaby, "You spotted snakes." We had the hunting song "What shall he have that kill'd the deer?" from *As You Like It*. Then we were carried to an island in the sea where the invisible Ariel was hovering over the shipwrecked Ferdinand singing one of the most graceful of all Shakespeare's songs, "Come unto these yellow sands." Later he sings "Full fathom five thy father lies," to tell him that his father is drowned, though all the time we know that he is alive and well. As we listened to "Tell me where is fancy bred," we saw the famous casket scene in *The Merchant of Venice*, for Shakespeare introduces this song while Bassanio comments to himself on the three caskets. The program closed with "Hark, hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings" and "Who is Silvia? What is she?"

We were sorry, I think, when the afternoon drew to a close and if we felt that we had merely touched upon the possibilities offered by so vast a subject, at least we had made a beginning, we had had little glimpses and foretastes of the beauties and pleasures which lie in wait for the children within the pages of Shakespeare.

EVELYN R. SICKELS  
Children's department

Rosenberg library  
Galveston, Texas

### Library Meetings

**California**—The Fifth district met in Woodland, April 29, with President Irma Cole, librarian, Woodland public library, and Secretary Lily Tilden, California state library, in charge.

Marjorie Richards, reference librarian, Sacramento City library, gave a well worth-while talk on Our attitude toward our work. Pearl Blundell, Stockton public library, described a unique information contest recently conducted by her library, during which any resident of the county was urged to send in questions on any subject. The reference department, coöperating with the California state library, was able to answer every question but one, namely, the origin of the proverb, "Curiosity killed a cat." The propounder of this question was given a book chosen by her from a list of previously selected titles. This contest not only demonstrated the practical value of the library to the citizen, but constituted an additional proof of the splendid coördination existing between the California state library and other libraries of the state.

Reverend H. S. Brewster of Modesto spoke on Some currents of present-day literature, and Cornelia D. Provines, librarian, Sacramento County free library, delighted her audience with her carefully worked out address on the Contribution of the negro to American literature, with special reference to the poetry of the negro.

HAZEL G. GIBSON  
Secretary

**Chicago**—Prof Edgar Johnson Goodspeed, University of Chicago, whose American translation of the New Testament has created much discussion in scholarly and religious circles, addressed the Chicago library club at its monthly meeting, April 3. The meeting was held at the Newberry library where a collection of rare Bibles is being exhibited. Since the Newberry display is especially arranged to emphasize the development of the English version of the Bible, Prof

Goodspeed's "Story of the English Bible" was a most delightful and informing supplement to the exhibit.

Beginning with the first English translation of the Bible—that of Wyclif, translated from the Latin Vulgate in 1382—Prof Goodspeed unfolded the story of various translations and revisions. Altho Wyclif's translation met with great opposition because many of its passages were not approved by the church, it was so widely circulated that there are more than a hundred copies extant today, and it was Wyclif's work which gave shape and color to succeeding translations.

Following Wyclif came Tyndale, with his vision of a Bible that "any boy driving a plow in England can understand." Upon his translation, made from a restricted number of original Greek and Hebrew versions, rests the whole fibre of the English Bible, in fact, Tyndale's translation of many passages was so good that much of it is preserved in the English Bible of today. Naming Tyndale as the father of the King James version, Prof Goodspeed stated that nine-tenths of what stands in this version comes from the hand of Tyndale, "the colossal figure in all translations," whose extraordinary style of English, wide learning and literary genius color the whole history of the English Bible. There is no authentic first printing of Tyndale in the United States, the one copy in existence being in Bristol, England.

Tyndale's work was taken up by Coverdale who, in 1535, published his version, founded partly on Tyndale's and partly on his own translations from Dutch and Latin versions.

These early translations were followed by others—the "Great Bible" ordered by Henry the Eighth, in 1539; the Geneva Bible, which was "easy to read" because of its verse division, and the Bishop's Bible of 1568, an outgrowth of the irritation caused by the appearance of the Geneva Bible, and a very conservative revision of the "Great Bible."

Then, in 1564, came King James the First's conference called to consider "things pretended to be amiss in the church," and, altho revision of the Bible was not among *agenda* for consideration at the conference, discussion arose concerning a revision, and the king eagerly made the idea his own. King James' version avowedly rests upon the Bishop's Bible which was "to be followed and as little altered as truth of the original will permit. . . . No reflection upon any previous translation is intended in this revision," the intention being "to make a good translation better, or, out of so many good ones, one principal good one." And so we have, as one of the results of this conference, the King James version, printed in 1611, "the authorized version of the Protestant English-speaking people."

According to Prof Goodspeed, the most famous misprint in the world appears in the King James version—"strain at a gnat." All translations, from Tyndale to Bishop, give the correct translation, "strain out a gnat," but, altho subsequent revisions have changed the King James version in thousands of particulars, no one has touched that word *at* which remains, nothing in the world but a misprint.

The King James version has been steadily worked on and altered by printers and publishers, but its place as a permanent monument of English literature is undisputed. Its democratic intent—a Bible which could be understood by the common people, the aim of Tyndale—has won the reverence of millions.

Prof Goodspeed told his story in the scholarly yet whimsical fashion which those who have heard him associate with him, but it was no small disappointment when the end came with not so much as a reference to his own translation of the New Testament.

E. L. MACHATTON

Oklahoma—The sixteenth annual meeting of the Oklahoma library association was held at the Public library, Chickasha, April 7-8.

The meeting opened with a roll-call of members, which was answered in a statement of "My ambitions for the future of my library."

In the afternoon, addresses of welcome were very cordial in tenor, and responses in like manner were given. The chief address, A Frontier library, was given by Mrs Lora L. G. Dobson, Hooker, a former teacher of English in the Oklahoma college for women. Mrs Dobson gave an amusing account of her "pioneer" library at Hooker and told of the kind of books which interested the typical Westerner. She urged librarians not to feel loss of power because most of the books read in such libraries are fiction. In the absorbing business of "settling and growing," tales of adventure and romance are in keeping with the state of mind. Books written by Zane Grey are most in demand by the patrons of Mrs Dobson's library. A number of letters from charter members now scattered all over the United States brought greetings to the association.

At the close of the meeting, an automobile ride over the city was given the guests by the Chamber of commerce and the City federation of women's clubs. They were driven to the Oklahoma college for women where they were shown over the institution by G. W. Austin, president of the college.

At the Monday evening meeting Mrs J. R. Dale, secretary of the State library commission, reviewed the work of her department under the title, Library progress in Oklahoma. Mrs Dale made a fine presentation of the necessity for county libraries in Oklahoma because of the sparse population and urged the librarians to help create sentiment in favor of legislative measures which would bring county libraries to every county in the state. With such help, a bill would surely pass the next legislature.

Dr P. P. Claxton, formerly U. S. commissioner of education but at present superintendent of the Tulsa city schools, made the principal address of the evening. Dr Claxton's theme was

that every man, woman and child in cities, towns and rural districts of Oklahoma should have access to a public library. He reviewed the history of the public library movement in America, told of its work in keeping down illiteracy in the nation and urged the public library to continue its work in the education of the individual. He made a plea along three lines—that everyone help to spread the county library idea in Oklahoma; that they help raise the standard of reading by individuals, and be certain that the libraries of the state furnish good reading matter.

According to Dr Claxton, not more than 40 per cent of the American people have access to a library and only 33 per cent have access to a library which has as many as 10,000 volumes. In his opinion, no library of less than 10,000 volumes can be relieved from the criticism of being inadequate.

Dr Claxton referred to the plea he made when he was in the Bureau of education for \$75,000,000 to place county libraries in every county in the United States. He hoped that some system would be carried out within the next few years that would bring county libraries to the point of efficiency of city public libraries. "Such a system will double the efficiency of the public school system," he said. "Illiteracy is a curse and handicap to this great democracy." In giving statistics, Dr Claxton said that 12 per cent of the total population of the United States can neither read nor write. "After a person learns to read, he can raise the dead. He can listen to Moses, David, Demosthenes and Dickens."

Dr Claxton related some startling answers which he had received from a question which he is fond of asking people—what books they have read. From these answers, he had concluded that the majority of people today do not read. People forget how to read if they do not keep on reading after they learn. There are three reasons why people quit reading—as pupils



the reading habit was not formed; literature was not taught them in the proper way; they do not have access to books. Dr Claxton thought the present degree of intelligence showed an alarming condition, and expressed himself in favor of remedying this by every person, irrespective of age, having two hours of school work each day. The public library can lead in this adult education by many and diverse ways. Reading is necessary if education is to continue.

The Tuesday morning session was given over to business. Mrs Trimmer Sloan Funk, librarian, Shawnee public library, was chosen president of the association for the coming year; E. C. Wilson, State teachers' college, Ada, first vice-president; Mrs L. A. Browder, Duncan public library, second vice-president; Myra Grosh, children's librarian, Tulsa, secretary; Mrs Elsie D. Hand, Oklahoma agricultural and mechanical college, Stillwater, treasurer.

The next meeting place was left to the decision of the Executive board.

In the afternoon, a joint meeting of librarians and trustees was held. Various questions were discussed and much interest manifested. Aids to book selection was presented by Ruth E. Hammond, Muskogee; Children's books and Book week, by Abigail Rice, Oklahoma City; Library buildings for the Southwest, by Lillian Gunter, Gainesville, Texas (*P. L.* 29:185, 227); Mutual responsibilities of trustees and librarians, by John H. Wright, Oklahoma City. Mr Wright's presentation brought out many interesting ideas. It was the general opinion that trustees should be the supreme power in matters of business and policy but the rights and privileges of administration of the library within the walls was distinctly the province of the librarian.

In the evening a banquet was served at the Oklahoma college for women, thru the courtesy of the college and the Chamber of commerce. The principal address was made by Dr Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian, St. Louis.

Dr Bostwick's subject was 'The Socialization of the public library. In the speaker's opinion, this was the leading question before the libraries of America today. To interest the people in good reading, the best method to use is reaching the individual thru group service. There are thousands of groups in which an individual might be classed in order to serve, but there are four distinct groups—educational, social, industrial and religious. The library should be the friend and a home to the public. Young people should be brought up in the library. If this is properly done by parents, teachers and librarians, eventually there will be no problem of library service for the general public.

Dr Bostwick emphasized the fact that the library building is for the use of the public. He said that a charge should never be made to any group wanting to use a room in the building, but that the strictest order should be kept and due regard for the rights of property observed.

A beautiful recital by members of the Fine Arts faculty of the Oklahoma college for women closed the meeting.

#### Coming meetings

The Maine library association will hold its annual meeting in Augusta, May 22-23.

The Ohio library association will hold its annual meeting at Columbus, October 7-9.

The Southwestern library association will hold its annual meeting at Santa Fe, New Mexico, August 28-30.

The annual conference of the Pacific Northwest library association will be held in Victoria, B. C., August 25-27.

The Massachusetts library club will hold its spring meeting at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, June 19-22.

Spring meetings of the Iowa library association will be held as follows:

Centerville—Friday, May 2  
Davenport—Tuesday and Wednesday, May 6 and 7

Grinnell—Thursday, May 8  
 Jefferson—Tuesday, May 13  
 Estherville—Thursday, May 15  
 Waterloo—Friday, May 16

The following subjects will be discussed:

Use of the library—Is reference work as important as circulation and shall it be pushed?

Borrowers—Should as much effort be made to increase the number of borrowers as to increase circulation—Relative importance?

Personnel—Are trustees or librarians responsible for low salaries, long hours, etc.? What is the remedy? Does the success of the library depend on trustees or librarian? Why?

Books—New non-fiction, fiction, juvenile.

JULIA A. ROBINSON  
 Secretary

### Ohio Valley Catalogers' Regional Meeting

A regional conference of catalogers was held in Indianapolis, March 29, attended by 58 librarians, including 12 from Cincinnati and representatives from 11 Indiana libraries. The meeting was called by Ruth Wallace, chief of the catalog department, Indianapolis public library, at the request of Sophie K. Hiss, chairman of the Catalog section of the A. L. A., for the purpose of organizing the catalogers of the region.

The program of the afternoon opened with a symposium on Special problems in cataloging. Gertrude Weil, Evansville, leading the discussion of public library problems, proposed for consideration the simplified unit catalog card. This means the adoption by any library of one simple form for all typed secondary cards instead of the different forms for subject, title, editor, etc. This single form would be easier to teach to new typists and easier to revise. The various necessary headings could be typed in above the standard form just as is done on an L. C. card. Some think it would be more intelligible to the public because of omission of details. No librarian present had tried it, but it was thought to be more useful to the library which types its cards than to one already using L. C.

cards, and to be especially adapted to multigraphing.

Every week for a period of three months, each assistant kept an informal record of work done. This slip did not take the place of the regular monthly report, but supplemented it. The following statistics were kept:

Number of books cataloged

Number of cards made

Time spent in actual work of cataloging

Time spent in other things; i. e., revision of our own work, checking subject headings, sending notes to branches, revision of filing, etc.

Number of careless mistakes caught in revision of own work

Number of careless mistakes caught by head cataloger in final revision

These statistics gave an interesting account as to just where the time of the cataloging department goes, and furnished a definite basis for comparison of work of the various assistants.

Winnifred Wennerstrum, representing the Public library commission of Indiana, advocated for the small library general references in the catalog from common subjects, such as American history, fairy tales, gardening, to the appropriate number on shelf and shelf-list instead of making the several subject cards. Discussion from the floor favored plentiful use of subject analytics for the small library. Miss Wennerstrum also told of a plan being developed by four neighboring libraries in southern Indiana for employing a trained cataloger who should divide her time among the four libraries.

Winifred Knapp, cataloger in charge of Indiana University library, reported that they had recently discontinued the making of analytics for annual reports of societies, except for some Indiana material. For classics of which the library has many editions, they make only one title card, with a reference to the author's name for other editions, and references from all other forms of the title. To avoid the charge of partiality between departments as to precedence of work, they give to all the books accessioned in any one month a slip of the same color. These

books are then cataloged before the next month's books are begun. Meanwhile the bright colored date markers permit the waiting books to stand in any convenient classified order.

A paper prepared by Jennie F. Scott, head cataloger, Indiana state library, and read by Luella Nelson, told of the scope of their work and their special joys in handling the serials of foreign learned societies in minor languages.

Laura Smith, chief of the catalog and reference departments of the Public library, Cincinnati, closed the program with a careful analysis of the Williamson report from the viewpoint of the cataloger. She raised the question of what shall be done in certification with the occasional outstanding person without a college degree, and called attention to the disadvantages of the requirement for one year of general library training before any specialization, suggesting that library schools give credit for actual experience to apply on the first year's work, so that the specialized work of the second year could be taken at once by students with experience. Miss Smith, as well as others present, disagreed with Mr Williamson in his discounting of personality.

By-laws were adopted for the Ohio Valley regional group of catalogers to include the southwest quarter of Ohio, Kentucky north of Frankfort and Indiana south of Lafayette. The enrollment was 45. The officers elected for the coming year were: President, Ruth Wallace; secretary-treasurer, Eleanor S. Wilby, Public library, Cincinnati.

The group was particularly glad to welcome the Training class of Cincinnati public library who were in the city to visit the Indianapolis libraries and the Indianapolis training class. All the members of the Cincinnati class had expressed a preference for appointment to their catalog department.

#### National Music Week May 4-10, 1924

A two-foot book shelf of popular works on music, some one of which, at

least, it believes every American should read, has just been made public by the committee which is planning National Music week, May 4-10. This list of 16 volumes has been compiled from the votes of famous musicians, music critics, orchestral conductors and musical educators. These were asked by the National Music Week committee to name books which would quicken the average person's musical perceptions and reveal to him new musical beauties—the list to be made up not of pedagogic works but of books of human interest. These would help to create new music-lovers, besides deepening the musical appreciation of those already interested.

Leading the 16 books by a comfortable margin is *How to listen to music* by the late H. E. Krehbiel, music critic and lecturer. A special honor is reserved for Daniel Gregory Mason in that five of his books are represented in the list. The 16 books which stood highest in the voting are the following:

- How to listen to music*, H. E. Krehbiel (Scribner)
- What we hear in music*, Anne Shaw Faulkner (Victor Co.)
- Fundamentals of music*, Karl W. Gehrkens (Ditson)
- Chopin—The Man and his music*, James G. Huneker (Scribner)
- Life of Ludwig van Beethoven*, Alexander W. Thayer (Beethoven Association)
- What is good music*, William J. Henderson (Scribner)
- The Lure of music*, Olin Downes (Harper)
- Beethoven and his forerunners*, Daniel Gregory Mason (MacMillan)
- From Grieg to Brahms*, Daniel Gregory Mason (Outlook Co.)
- Music: An Art and language*, Walter R. Spaulding (Schmidt)
- Child's Guide to music*, Daniel Gregory Mason (Baker & Taylor)
- The Romantic composers*, Daniel Gregory Mason (MacMillan)
- Orchestral instruments and what they do*, Daniel Gregory Mason (Baker & Taylor)
- Evolution of the art of music*, Hubert Parry (Appleton)
- Listener's guide to music*, Percy A. Scholes (Oxford Press)
- The Education of a music lover*, Edward Dickinson (Scribner)

Those from whose votes the above composite list was compiled are the following: Margaret Anderton, Ernest Bloch, Arthur Bodanzky, Charles N.

Boyd, Ray C. B. Brown, Harold L. Butler, George W. Chadwick, Chalmers Clifton, C. S. Dickinson, Frank Damosch, Peter W. Dykema, Henry Purmort Eames, Carl Engel, J. Lawrence Erb, Charles H. Farnsworth, Henry T. Finck, Amelita Galli-Curci, Karl W. Gehrkins, Percy Grainger, Karleton Hackett, Leonard Lieblich, Willem Mengelberg, Pierre Monteux, Harold Randolph, Walter Henry Rothwell, Wilson G. Smith, Leopold Stokowski, Edwin J. Stringham, Gustav Strube, and Fullerton Waldo.

One or two of the musicians preferred not to make out a complete list such as was requested by the committee. For instance, Amelita Galli-Curci, the famous prima donna, replied modestly, "I am not very well qualified to give you a list of books for the Man-in-the-Street (who is the person we really want to reach)." Madam Galli-Curci, however, proposed *The Musical amateur* by Robert Haven Schauffer which had impressed upon her the fact that the appreciation of good music is a process of evolution. Josef Stransky, conductor of the State symphony orchestra, remarked, "There are hundreds of such books written—to pick out 10 would mean injustice to the balance." Ernest Bloch specified merely the works and letters of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Liszt and Wagner.

Public libraries all over the country are asked to display on their shelves during National Music week, May 4-10, the 16 books approved by the committee.

THE NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK  
COMMITTEE

105 West 40th Street  
New York City

Books for the Blind

Extended activity has been begun by the A. L. A. committee on work with the blind, altho the periodical, *Outlook for the Blind*, is the center for most of the work. This is to be published by the American Foundation, 41 Union Square, West, New York City.

Interesting Things in Print

The Carnegie public library, Ottawa, Canada, has issued a pamphlet, *Some good books in science, popular, elementary and advanced*. The list was prepared by W. J. Sykes, the librarian.

A reprint from the *Nation's Business* for March, 1924, contains an extensive discussion of the subject Business-managing our cities, by Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., chief, National Civics bureau, U. S. chamber of commerce.

A neat little booklet recently issued by the Public library, Binghamton, N. Y., has the title, *China: Old and new*. The booklet was issued in connection with the Chinese Loan exhibition from the Public library, Newark, N. J.

The proceedings of the meeting of the Pacific Northwest library association at Corvallis, Oregon, June 11-13, have been issued in pamphlet form. Copies may be secured from Elena A. Clancey, Public library, Tacoma, Wash., for 75 cents.

The December issue of the *Grosvenor Library Bulletin* published by that library in Buffalo, N. Y., contains an informing and interesting interview with Frank Swinnerton in which the latter gives some illuminating opinions of present day novelists in general and of American novelists in particular.

A reprint from the *Bulletin of Bibliography*, Vol. 12, No. 1, 1923, is an article, "Some musical terms used in cataloging," by William Stetson Merrill of the Newberry library, Chicago. This will be of value to those interested in its contents since Mr Merrill is himself both a musician and an authority on cataloging.

A recent article in the *Times*, Ocean Grove, N. J., claims that the Public library of Burlington, N. J., is the first free public library organized in America, the date of its organization being 1757. The library received a charter from King George the Second of England and a letter of thanks for the effort. These are still in the possession of the city.

An interesting presentation in the *Michigan Library Bulletin* is that prepared by John S. Cleavinger who, last year, began the work of bringing together under one direction the three public libraries of Saginaw, Mich. Altho this has been fairly accomplished, the institutions are still separately financed and supported. The presentation makes an interesting story.

The staff of the Public library, Syracuse, N. Y., has issued the Map of good stories referred to last month (*P. L.* 29:200) in reprint form—this in answer to the desire of many to place the map in libraries. Reproductions of the map, 8" x 11", may be had for 50 cents each; 18" x 24" for \$3. The Gold Star list, issued by the Syracuse library, may be had for 20 cents a copy, with a reduction in price for larger quantities.

The Texas state library, Austin, has issued a Texas library manual, intended to be an authoritative standard for secondary schools and teacher-training institutions. It was compiled with the library situation in Texas in mind and contains the library laws of the state, standards of organization and equipment, books selection, income, salaries and service. Library work in Texas is unequally developed and the main purpose of the Texas library manual is to set out certain standards for libraries in the state to attain. Educational and technical equipment are emphasized. A basis and scale of salaries, as well as minimum sums for library support, are also presented.

A new booklet issued by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York City, is *Sources of cost information* (No. 6). This pamphlet describes the main source of cost information so that a business man facing a cost problem may know immediately where to turn for assistance. It is free to any library which handles this type of information. The bibliographies are short, with full descriptive notes.

### A Contribution to Bibliography

A bibliography of fishes. By Bashford Dean. New York: American Museum of Natural History, 1916-1923. 3 v. 8vo.

This is one of the most important American contributions to bibliography of recent years. If Dr Dean had done no more than give the alphabetical list of authors contained in the first two volumes he would certainly have deserved the thanks of librarians and research workers. When, however, he gave us in addition a third volume containing an elaborate systematic classification of the contents of the two preceding volumes, a useful index to the classified section, and a scholarly analysis of the whole body of pre-Linnean literature he set a standard not to be easily surpassed by his followers.

A generation ago Dr Dean saw the necessity of learning just what other men had done before beginning any extensive study of any phase of ichthyology. He kept the notes he gathered and soon found they had become too numerous and too important to remain in the workroom of one individual. The American museum of natural history took over the task of systematizing and continuing the work the young student had begun, and in 1916 published the first volume of the alphabetical index (A to K); this was followed by L to Z in 1917, and now after a wait of six long years comes the third and last volume. That these years mark work and not neglect is apparent after the hastiest glance.

Anyone can see that the systematic index has taken time to prepare, but probably only the few who have had to struggle with pioneer work of this kind will realize how much time and thought and effort must have gone into the study and experiments that led to this finished product. It was no easy task to give a guide to so extensive a collection of references and to meet the needs of both specialist and general reader. The index will well repay study by anyone who has had or expects to have some such problem to face.



Almost any page of the work is as interesting as a page of the dictionary, but the 135 pages devoted to the pre-Linnean titles provide a wealth of references to classical, mediaeval, and later science—to the middle of the eighteenth century—that delight the soul of any one interested in learning how our fathers saw and explained the world around them. Biologist, anthropologist, student of folk lore, historian, psychologist, any student of beliefs of former days will have far to go before he finds so extensive and accurate a guide to the sources for scientific thought of yesterday.

For the first two volumes, Dr Dean had the able assistance of Dr Charles R. Eastman, helped by Mr Arthur Wilbur Henn; the third has been edited and extended by Dr Eugene Willis Gudger, with some help by Mr Henn.

For any institution pretending to carry on biological research the work is indispensable, and it is no less necessary for any library—scientific or general—where readers or staff are interested in interpretation of nature.

A 56 page pamphlet, an addition to the D. C., has recently been issued. It contains an 8-page expansion of 658 *Business methods, industrial management*. This is largely the work of the Engineering Societies library of New York, the Research committee of the Detroit chapter of the Society of industrial engineers, and a joint committee on Terminology. It contains also a 7-page table for 651 *Office economy* slightly revised from the tentative table published in *Edition 11*, and *Section 331 Labor and laborers, employers, capital*, which has been expanded from its previous 2 pages to 9 pages, keeping closely in accord with the Belgian expansion of 331. This has been developed at this time because those especially interested in business management wish provision under that subject for numerous topics identical with or similar to those already brought out under 331. As the tables are now

worked out, anyone wishing to file this material under 658 can do so by merely affixing to 658.3 the divisions of 331. A 16 page consolidated index to 331, 651 and 658 is also included. The price of the publication is \$1.

A valuable reference book for information concerning everything relating to colleges in the United States is the College blue book, by Dr H. W. Hurt. Volume 1 is crammed full of information concerning institutions devoted to liberal arts and sciences. It contains a table of standards for colleges, junior colleges and negro colleges, also ratings as between two colleges. It brings over 150 facts about 958 colleges into instantly accessible form. It is divided into six major divisions—colleges and universities; colleges especially for negroes; junior colleges; universities of the world; educational atlas, and high-school standards.

The College blue book is a time-saving service on college references and vocational guidance information. This information is up-to-date and revised to the moment of going to press.

Volume 2, now in preparation, will do the same thing for technical and professional education.

The Norway year book, 1924, the first of a coming series on that country, probably, gives historical, economic, social and cultural information in convenient form. The articles dealing with the various subjects and situations included in this compact volume of nearly 550 pages were written by acknowledged authorities in the various fields and are signed. An index and two maps add their bits to a valuable publication.

A new publication is being established by F. E. Compton & Company in Chicago under the title, *Compton's Pictured Newspaper, A Monthly Digest of the World's Best News for Home and School*.

The page size is larger than the sheets of Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia but the style of presentation is quite the same. The material is

well chosen, timely, with a strong news element and odd bits of information related to current events, circumstances or facts add interest and value to the information. For instance, the recent death of Gustave Eiffel, the great French engineer, is mentioned and to this is added a few lines concerning Eiffel tower, the item closing with the information that Eiffel is to be buried under this tower in Paris. The results of the recent dog races form the thread on which is strung interesting information concerning the use of dog teams in the frigid zones.

Under the heading, "Seen and Heard by the Globe Trotter," are items which bring out important facts, always surrounded by further information of special interest to students either young or old. Exterminating rabbits in Australia, Rasmussen under Arctic nights in snow huts, rockets designed to reach the moon, making birds tell the story of their travels, interesting things about whales and beavers, the present excavations, are some themes on which much information is given, as well as science in its recent developments, both applied and natural, engineering, and, of course, motor cycles.

"Current Events in Our Own United States" furnishes a page which might well be copied by the secular press. A man from Mars reading the *Chicago Tribune* or most metropolitan newspapers would probably hide until the next air current was due to take him back!

The "terrible Turk" and other famous people in the world's limelight receive due notice—always with informational development.

One wishes that the page of "Smiles" had been left to the Sunday supplement, but taken altogether, those who are interested in means of developing common intelligence among the people of today, starting with school pupils and ending with the president of the United States, must be grateful for the vehicle which is proposed by this new monthly.

### Library Schools

#### Carnegie library, Atlanta

On March 29, the library school had the delightful surprise of a visit from Dr Bowker who passed thru Atlanta on his way home from Cuba.

The South Carolina library association meeting, held in Greenville, March 27-28, was attended by various graduates of the school who are in library work in the state and by Miss Crumley who was asked to talk on Some new fiction. Charlotte Templeton, librarian of the Greenville library, returned to the school with Miss Crumley for the week of March 31, giving her lectures on library buildings and various problems of library administration. The class was much interested to hear in detail of the Greenville public library where Miss Templeton is having an ideal opportunity to try out all the ideas accumulated during her years of experience in commission work.

Two other visits made this week notable. Mrs Lillian B. Griggs, '10, formerly librarian of the Public library, Durham, North Carolina, and who has succeeded Mary B. Palmer, '09, as secretary of the North Carolina library commission, gave the class a survey of library conditions in North Carolina, where the commission is working for a "county-serving library in every county." Theresa Hodges, '21, stopped in Atlanta, on a short rest after work in the Detroit public library, before taking up her duties as librarian of the McKenny public library, Petersburg, Virginia. Miss Hodges explained the inter-branch loan work of the Detroit library which had been her particular responsibility there and also told what she had learned by correspondence of the Petersburg library. The library building is the McKenny residence, a gift to the city from the McKenny family. The main floor is to be used for the library, the upper floor for a museum of local history, in which Petersburg abounds, and the lower floor will in the future be used for a library for colored people.

Burr Blackburn, executive secretary of the State Council of Social Agencies,

gave the class a highly instructive and very interesting lecture on social work in general, the agencies for social work in the state of Georgia, the agencies to be expected in a typical southern town and the way in which the library can work with these agencies. Mr Blackburn brought out the fact that the best printed material on social work is pamphlet material issued by the national societies interested in various branches of social work and gave the class a list of the most important societies in each branch.

SUSIE LEE CRUMLEY  
Principal

**Carnegie library, Pittsburgh**

Harriet Wood, supervisor of school libraries for Minnesota, gave two lectures to the school in April. She told how library work in Minnesota is fostered and administered thru the State board of education and in her talk on April 9 she chose for her topic, New methods in library work with schools, and made many valuable suggestions.

She made the field of school library work very attractive.

A series of five lectures on Modern educational theory and practice is being given by Dr Charles W. Hunt, director of Extramural instruction in the University of Pittsburgh. Dr Hunt is giving a brief historical resumé and tracing modern methods in school work to their beginnings. Dr Jesse Hayes White, professor of psychology in the same university, is again giving his very practical course of 10 lectures on child psychology.

The annual library inspection trip is to be made this year during the week of May 5. The libraries to be visited include several in Washington and Baltimore and the Washington County free library of Hagerstown.

The faculty and local alumnae of the school were guests of the Class of 1924, the evening of March 17. The class presented a clever original skit, One crowded hour, based upon their experiences during the year.

NINA C. BROTHERTON  
Principal

**Drexel Institute**

Students of the library school gave a party at the home of one of the members, Alida Gardner, on Saint Patrick's day. This was the first party of the season in a private home and was enjoyed by both faculty and students.

The visit of the Pratt Institute library school and the interchange of experiences of the students is always an enjoyable occasion. Unfortunately the class was out on field work and did not meet the students of the library school of the New York public library on their brief visit, March 29.

The students had the pleasure of hearing Margaret Jackson's delightful lecture on Publishers. Miss Jackson also gave an interesting description of the work she is now doing in the George L. Pease memorial library, Ridgewood, N. J.

The production of Christopher Morley's one-act play, "On the shelf," by the students of this year's class at Drexel assembly is to be repeated at the Atlantic City meeting, May 2. It is hoped that Mr Morley will be present in person. The Atlantic City meeting will be the occasion for the annual Drexel banquet which brings out a large number of graduates.

The Library School alumni, under Caroline B. Perkins, are helping to raise money for the Drexel Endowment campaign. This is the first time that Drexel has asked for funds since it was founded in 1892. President Matheson is striving to raise a million dollars additional endowment to be used for greater efficiency.

The director of the library school and the faculty attended the open meetings of the Temporary Library Training board in New York City, April 15-17. Marguerite H. Connolly, a Drexel graduate, represented the training class of the Free library of Philadelphia and Mary Louise Erskine, librarian of Wilson college, was the Drexel alumni representative.

ANNE W. HOWLAND  
Director.

**Los Angeles public library**

Library visits filled the first week in April.

The greatest variety of libraries was found in San Diego where the city, county, high-school and junior college, teachers' college, special scientific, Red Cross hospital, naval training station and marine base libraries welcomed the students. One day was spent in Pasadena and another in Orange County, where three types of libraries in Santa Ana and two in Fullerton were visited, the afternoon ending with a delightful tea in the Fullerton public library.

The morning in the Los Angeles City school library was illuminating. In addition to the large collections of films, dolls, lantern slides, pictures and other visual education material, victrola records, charts for teaching adult foreigners, and the more conventional books and periodicals, special exhibits had been arranged. The supervisors of nature study, art and hand work, explained to the students the relation of the library to the course of study in the schools. The class agreed with the enthusiastic supervisor of visual education who told them that many professions might be fascinating, but if one really wished to *live*, one must be a librarian!

The lessons on technology in the book selection course were given by Mrs Vaughan and supplemented by her talk on special libraries, and by a description of the bank libraries in Los Angeles by Alice Scheck, librarian of the First National Bank. Correlated with the book selection lessons on fine arts given by Gladys Caldwell were three special lectures, on art periodicals by Mildred Schaer, picture collections by Frances Richardson, and books about music from the standpoint of a musician by Mr Ussher, dramatic and musical critic of the *Express*.

Miss Kennedy's course on library buildings ended with a problem in the reproduction in smaller scale of the plans for three new branch libraries,

to be photographed for an exhibit at the Pasadena meeting of the C. L. A. The principal of the school has charge of the exhibits at the meeting and the students are planning an exhibit of various expansions of the D. C. and other classifications.

MARION HORTON  
Principal

**New York public library**

In planning the annual inspection trip for the present year, advantage was taken of some new library developments lying within the usual range of the tour. With Philadelphia as a center, visits were made to certain outlying libraries, including particularly the newly organized library serving Burlington County, N. J., under the direction of Adelene J. Pratt. An afternoon was spent at Mt. Holly, the county seat and the headquarters of this library, the time being given to inspecting the collection and the routine methods and to hearing descriptions of the work of the library by the librarian, the state organizer, members of the local board of trustees and representatives of the county freeholders. On the way to Washington, a stop was made also at Wilmington to see the new and commodious building of the Wilmington Institute free library. Visits at Philadelphia were made also to the Drexel Institute library school and to the Library Company, and at Washington to the Library of Congress, the Public library of the District of Columbia and a number of departmental libraries.

The junior students recently listened to Prof A. S. Root's series of six lectures on the history of the printed book, and are now hearing a series on children's work and literature given by Effie L. Power, director of Work with children, Cleveland public library. They also heard recently a talk by H. M. Lydenberg on his observations of Russian and central European libraries, and a discourse on the English book market by Emily Sowerby, formerly associated with Sotheby's of London.

Entrance examinations for 1924-25 will be held on Saturday, June 7.

ERNEST J. REECE  
Principal

**Pratt Institute**

The spring trip this year was a wholly delightful experience, even the weather giving a succession of bright, cool days which greatly aided our progress. Visits were made to Princeton, Trenton, Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Washington, seeing libraries of many sorts and kinds, college, high-school, state, public libraries, large and medium-sized, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, the Library school of Drexel Institute, the Library of Congress, of the Smithsonian Institution, of the Department of agriculture, and of the Walter Reed hospital. Everywhere the visitors were received with that abounding hospitality and kindness that makes the American library spirit a reality to library school students and a revelation to those from foreign lands. One incident stands out for its unique interest. After luncheon at the new Wilmington building—the last word in library architecture—the visitors were driven 10 miles out to the country place of Mr Pierre DuPont where they visited his wonderful greenhouses, a veritable fairyland of beauty.

The entrance examination for the class of 1925 will be held on Friday, June 6.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE  
Vice-director

**Riverside, Cal.**

The annual luncheon of the Riverside library service school was held at Glenwood Mission inn, Saturday, March 1. About 75 guests were present, including students and alumni, past and present members of the Library board and instructors in the school. A surprise feature of the luncheon was the introduction of Gene Stratton-Porter, who read an unfinished poem of her own writing.

The Riverside library service school closed its 10 weeks' session, March 14, having had an average attendance,

there being 22 students from six states. The class was very high in quality, with no failures in any of the classes.

Jean Woodruff, recently graduated from the Riverside library service school, is now librarian of the Union high school, Perris, Cal.

**St. Louis public library**

During the "Made in St. Louis" exhibition held the last week in March, members of the class took charge of the library booth three afternoons and evenings.

On February 25, Malcolm G. Wyer gave an interesting talk to the students on Literary hobbies.

The usual full-time laboratory period was spent in March this year, each student being assigned to at least two different departments or branches of the St. Louis public library. Several had an opportunity during the month to observe the work done at schools.

Rena Reese, of the Denver public library, while in St. Louis, on April 11, told the class something of their branch system in Denver.

A. E. B.

**University of Washington**

The library school opened its third quarter's work, March 27, with a registration of 14 students.

Mary Batterson, head of circulation, Tacoma public library, opened the series of lectures to be delivered by leading librarians of the Pacific Northwest. John Ridington, librarian, University of British Columbia; Anne Mulheron, librarian, Portland library association; Eleanor Stephens, librarian, Public library, Yakima; Herbert Killam, secretary, British Columbia library commission; J. T. Jennings, librarian, Seattle public library; Ralph Munn, head of reference department, Seattle public library; Mary Kobetich, librarian, Stadium high school, Tacoma; Nell Unger, librarian, Garfield high school, Seattle, are the other lecturers in the series.

Jerusha G. Meigs '21, is in the Seward high-school library, New York City.

Stella Bateman '18, is assistant in the Girls' high-school library, Brooklyn, N. Y.

May Bergh '19, is assistant in the Seward



Park branch of the New York public library.

Clemence Parks '23, has accepted the position of head of loan department, Stanislaus County library, Modesto, California.

W. E. HENRY, director

#### Western Reserve university

The course in bookbinding and repair, by Gertrude Stiles, has just been concluded, the final lecture being on art binding, with lantern slides. Practical psychology as presented by Prof Grace Preyer Rush has proved an absorbing course for all the students during the second semester. Work with the foreign-born as presented by Mrs Eleanor E. Ledbetter, chairman, A. L. A. committee on work with the foreign-born, is also a subject of great interest at this time. A lecture by Alice Gannett, head of Goodrich settlement house, Cleveland, on The Social settlement movement was given, March 20.

Lillian H. Smith, head of the Boys' and Girls' division, Toronto public library, and chairman of the Children's Librarians section of the A. L. A., spoke twice at the school, March 27, her subjects being Books for girls and Library work with children in Canada.

Immediately following the spring recess in April, two visiting lecturers were Julia W. Merrill, head of the Organization department of the Ohio state library, who spoke on the work of that department; and Harriet A. Wood, state supervisor of school libraries in Minnesota, who gave two lectures, her subjects being Prospects in school library work and Reading for pleasure vs. Reading as a task.

Alice S. TYLER  
Director

The fourth annual summer school for librarians conducted by the Public library commission of Vermont will be held in Montpelier, August 4-15 inclusive. The school has previously been held at the University of Vermont, Burlington, but the librarians, by choice, have designated Montpelier as being more centrally located. The courses are planned primarily to fit the needs of small libraries.

Further information regarding attendance will be given on request by Mrs Helen M. Richards, secretary, Public Library department, Montpelier.

A special eight weeks' course in children's work was begun, April 14, in the Indianapolis public library, directed by Carrie E. Scott, supervisor of children's work. Its membership was limited to members of the Indianapolis public library staff who had had a previous course in library training and were interested in the special field of children's work. The course consists of 24 lessons and covers children's literature, administration and story-telling.

The regular six months' training course in the Indianapolis public library came to a close April 4. There were 10 members of the class, all of whom have received appointments on the library staff.

The Riverside library service school, Riverside, Cal., will hold its summer term of six weeks, June 30-August 8. Applications and inquiries should be addressed to Charles F. Woods, librarian, Public library, Riverside.

#### An Interesting Study

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the Midwinter meeting, that a committee should be appointed "to study the adult education movement and the work of libraries for adults and older boys and girls out of school and report its findings and its recommendations to the Council," a commission on library and adult education will soon be appointed by the Executive board. The commission is to appoint an advisory committee if it wishes.

This work will be taken up very seriously, "with the help of a capable executive assistant," and a study will be made of the movement for adult education, which in some quarters, has already been considerably developed. A detailed study of adult educational activities in American libraries will be made.

Department of School Libraries

**Teaching Students to Use Books**

Shall there be a special staff member to teach this course?

This question can be answered in just one word—Y-e-s. But how are we to obtain this special staff member under existing conditions? There is not much question that the librarian is the only member of the staff available at present, and she is not available because she is not equipped.

I wrote to every librarian of the schools giving this course, and they were unanimous as to the desirability of such a teacher, but up to date the Milwaukee normal is the only one in Wisconsin to attain the goal. So it falls upon the librarian to do the teaching. Even if she were trained in methods, which most of us are not, it is practically impossible for any librarian to train a class of teacher-librarians and administer her library as it should be done. Either she will "hate the one and love the other, or else she will hold to the one and despise the other."

The Williamson report says, "A strong disinclination toward teaching pervades the library profession, largely as a result, perhaps, of the fact that so many librarians were formerly teachers who have found library work more congenial, if not more remunerative." This was written of library school instructors, but applies to normal school librarians as well. In Wisconsin, the librarians who were formerly teachers are the ones who most dislike this teaching. The report says, further, "The time is so short for covering the wide range of topics considered essential that the curriculum must be very closely planned and organized. This tends to reduce the teaching to a routine, and to make the work unattractive to genuine teachers." As a matter of fact, the average normal librarian is not a trained teacher, and, while methods may be overdone in our

normals and the object to be attained almost lost in the maze of how-to-do-it, still they can be underdone, too—quite raw, in fact. They *are* underdone and we know that they are, but, as one normal librarian says, "The normal libraries are not library schools, and by whose authority are they so considered?" That is a pertinent question and gives food for thought. But on the other hand, since the teacher-librarian law went into effect three years ago, about 1100 teachers have taken the course in the nine normals, five colleges and the University library school. A number of these teachers have never put the course into practice, so there have been none too many to supply the 410 high schools. We all agree that the University library school is the ideal and the logical place in which to train these people but it is not equipped to handle any such number, so the normals must help out. How can they best do this?

There seem to be two alternatives—either to employ a trained library methods teacher, or to give the librarian extra help. As it is easier and less expensive to find someone who can do routine work than it is to secure a trained teacher, that would seem to be the simpler plan. The librarian would then be free to give a fair proportion of her time and thought to her teaching. I have wondered if it would be possible to employ one trained library teacher for every three normals, the course to be given during the first semester in one school, during the second in another, and during summer school in the third. I believe this might solve the problem.

Surely these 1100 teacher-librarians need the best training we can give them. I believe the high-school librarian to be more important than she of the normal. She reaches a much larger number and the material with which she works is more pliable. Impres-

sions received by students of high-school age are almost indelible, and we who work in the normals know that our students show very plainly and never quite lose, while with us at least, the view-point received in high school.

As these 1100 teacher-librarians cannot all attend the state library school, are we doing the best for them that can be done? Most emphatically, NO! They should have the best teachers obtainable, and into the class with them should go superintendents, principals and board members. Why? I will tell you. Our girls go out and reports come back that most of them are "making good." But are they? Who *knows*? The average layman—in this case superintendent, principal, board member—is still very hazy as to the multitudinous things which a librarian must do in order to administer her library for the greatest good to the largest number. And it is this ignorance—the ignorance which considers a quiet room, orderly shelves and someone in charge to constitute an efficient library—which makes it possible for so many "half-baked librarians to get by" with poor work and badly organized libraries, giving about half the service that should be given. *They* are not to blame! We are. We are not giving them a fair deal and will not until we employ a trained teacher, or, failing that, give the librarian extra help so that she may be free to teach and, if necessary, enter a class in teaching methods. She should also be given proper equipment; an adequate class room, text books, library tools, etc. Then, too, the course should be standardized so that each librarian would not be obliged to work out her own, as to time spent, recitations per week and number of credits to be given. It is a regular free-for-all. There are as many systems as there are schools. And her work should be inspected by a trained librarian of broad vision and wide sympathy, not merely a political

appointee. Every conscientious librarian is glad of suggestions which will improve her teaching. Lacking any or all of the above, she is working under too heavy a handicap, and it is remarkable that the product turns out as well as it does.

Then here's to the library teacher!

Her coming will be a great boon;

She will save our vanishing reason.

Not "How long, O Lord," but how soon?

WINIFRED WINANS

Librarian, State normal school

Eau Claire, Wis.

### Recent Periodical Literature on High-School Libraries

Lillian Stewart, librarian, Western high school, Detroit, Michigan

At a high-school library conference held at the meeting of the Michigan Schoolmasters' club, Ann Arbor, April 4, Miss Lillian Stewart, librarian, Western high school, Detroit, had an interesting presentation which brought on considerable discussion.

Miss Stewart took the position that when one started out to find material one, generally, first questioned as to where such material would naturally belong, with the answer, the names of periodicals or treatises devoted to the subject in mind.

It is Miss Stewart's idea that it is more convenient to have the magazines arranged first alphabetically, and the material under each magazine arranged chronologically.

Miss Stewart closed her address by presenting the following list:

*American City*, November, 1923

Bowerman, G. F., Library and school cooperation. p. 483-5

*American School Board Journal*, July, 1923

Styles, G. W., School library as an architectural problem

*Education*, March, 1921

Conner, Martha. The library and the school. p. 440-8

*English Journal*, D., 1920

Eaton, Anne T. What the library and the English department can do for the whole school. p. 570-8

*Elementary School Journal*, April, 1923

James, M. Elizabeth. Use of class room

libraries to stimulate interest and speed in reading. p. 601-8.

*Detroit Journal of Education*

Certain, C. C. School libraries (editorial). June, 1923

Pritchard, Martha. Pre-vocational course for high schools. p. 442-4, June, 1923

Walter, Frank K. Relation of school librarian to class room instruction. p. 437-38, June, 1923

Westervelt, Gretchen. School library and art museum. p. 445-6, June, 1923

Winton, Grace. Preparation and content of a high-school library budget. p. 439-41, June, 1923

*Library Journal*

Vought, S. W. Development of the school library. p. 161-4, F 15, 1923

Whittaker, S. E. Book and the high-school student. p. 167-70, F 15, 1923

Glen, E. R. and Eaton, A. T. Relation of high-school library to teaching of chemistry. p. 415-18, May 1, 1923

*N. E. A. Journal*, J., 1924

Jennings, Judson T. The library in education. p. 35

*Popular Educator*, March, 1924

What are they reading? p. 376-8

*Public Libraries*

Howard, Clara E. An effective high-school library. p. 221-3, April, 1921

Libraries and schools (discussion). p. 639

School libraries (editorial). p. 593

School section, Illinois Library Association report. p. 606-9, December, 1922

Smith, Laura G. Opportunities in junior high school. Ja F Mr, 1923

Harris, Mabel. Library material for debating in high school. March-April, 1923

McDonald, Irene. Random reflections of a high-school librarian. p. 270-1, May, 1923

Tawney, Mary A. Experiment in library instruction. p. 405, July, 1923

Zachert, Adeline. What shall we do to interest school authorities in value and needs of a library? p. 403, July, 1923

Harris, Mary L. Instruction in use of books and libraries. p. 469, O 1923

Ayers, Mary A. Cooperation and administration. p. 592, D 1923

Kemp, Emily. Book selection for high-school libraries. p. 592, D 1923

Hall, Mary E. Good citizenship in the use of books lent by the city. Ja-F, 1924

Good citizenship rules. p. 150-1, Mr 1924

Hall, Mary E. Possibilities in the evening high-school library. p. 144-8, March 1924

*School and Society*, S 15, 1923

Certain, C. C. Some sociological side-lights upon the school library. p. 324-6

*School Science and Mathematics*, March, 1921

Glen, Earl R. Past and present practice in high-school library book selection from viewpoint of science teacher. p. 217-37.

(Also *Library Journal*, M 15-A 1, 1921)

*University of North Carolina Press*, June 1, 1923. *Extension Bulletin*—Vol. 2, No. 14

Wilson, L. R., and others. High-school library.

*Wilson Bulletin*

Brown, Zaidee. Reference books for school library. May, 1923

Williams, Mabel. Books for browsing corner of high-school library. May, 1923

Zachert, Adeline. School library program for Pennsylvania. May, 1923

Wood, Harriet E. and O'Connell, Frances. Reading lists of books for use of high-school libraries. O 1923.

Vought, Sabra W. Needed books for the young in the public and the school library. November, 1923

Ovitz, Delia G., and Miller, Zana K. A vertical file in every library. J 1924

**Conference of Normal School Librarians of Pennsylvania**

The third annual conference of the faculties of the state normal schools of Pennsylvania was held at Indiana, April 10-12. The normal school librarians gathered in a group conference with Adeline B. Zachert, State director of school libraries. Their meeting was not only inspirational but eminently practical, a number of definite conclusions being reached.

The course of study in library methods was reported on and carefully discussed. It is being given by the librarians in all the normal schools tho some of the schools had not been able to secure the full time allotment of 18 classroom periods. A resolution was passed fully endorsing the course and recommending that it be continued, that it be given the full time allotment, and that it receive full recognition and credit. This is a carefully prepared course of one semester hour with practice work and individual problems, concluding with an examination or test. In some cases a true-false test of 50 questions and a multiple choice test of 100 questions were used.

In cataloging, the greatest need seemed to be a better classification of pedagog-

ical books. This varied widely in the different schools, as the Decimal system allows wide range of choice on this subject. A committee was appointed to work out an adaptation of the Dewey system of the classification of pedagogical books which should seem best suited to a normal school library and which might be uniformly adopted.

Much time was given to the question of leisure reading of students. It was felt that the normal schools are responsible for the cultural development of their students. Normal school graduates should know and appreciate books, authors and topics which intelligent people are discussing and thus reflect credit on the schools which graduate them. The librarian has a large responsibility in this direction. A limited survey has been made of the reading of high-school and normal school students, which showed a healthy broadening of their leisure reading. Some of the methods in use to increase and improve this are:

Wise purchase of new books in all cultural lines

Advertisement of books by bulletins and shelf display

Frequent short talks on new books, their authors and their topics

A card index of brief book reviews by students and faculty

Individual guidance and suggestion

The normal schools of Pennsylvania are regarded as the educational centers of their districts, to which all educators may turn for information and for expert advice and assistance. In such service the library of the normal school becomes an important factor. It should be a large and up-to-date book laboratory, carefully organized to meet the various demands made upon it. One feature of the extension work of the normal school library is the work with small rural schools in the district. This implies the sending of traveling libraries from the normal school library. This work is growing rapidly in all the normal schools. During the last year one normal school kept 40 class-room libraries in constant use in the small rural schools in its district.

An adequate appropriation for the purchase of books is a problem of keen interest to the librarians. Action was taken to request that a sum equal to not less than \$4 for each student enrolled be allowed in the annual budget of each normal school for the purchase of library books. It was felt that this quota will not provide sufficient funds to carry on adequately the many lines of work of the normal school library but it is hoped that means may be found to increase this minimum allotment.

ALICE COCHRAN, secretary  
Library section  
Normal School conference of  
Pennsylvania

### Meeting of Ohio School Librarians

A meeting of school librarians was held at Columbus, April 4, in connection with the annual meeting of the Ohio State Educational conference.

An interesting program prepared by the State library was presented. Some of the topics were: How the junior high-school library differs from that of the senior high-school library, Edna M. Hull, Warren; How we teach the use of the library, Helen V. Lewis, Cleveland; The School library and the teacher, Estella M. Slaven, Ohio state library.

There was an encouraging attendance of librarians, school superintendents and teachers, and interest and attendance seemed to warrant a continuation of the meetings. This is the first time the school librarians have met in the State educational conference.

The teachers present showed very gratifying interest in the program.

Word comes from the Oregon state library, Salem, that Part 1 of Lists of books for school libraries in the state of Oregon, *Books for elementary schools* (*P. L. 29:151*), is out of print and the library is unable to supply requests for it. A new edition will probably be issued later. The supplement issued in the fall of 1923 is for Part 2, *Books for high schools*, and not for Part 1.



## News from the Field

## East

Elinor Buncher, N. Y. P. L. '22-23, has been appointed librarian of the South Side branch of the Public library, Waltham, Mass.

Julia F. Carter, Pratt '06, has been appointed to take charge of the children's and school departments of the New Haven public library.

The 1923 report of the Public library, New Bedford, Mass., records the following: Population served, 134,000; books on the shelves, 185,276; books lent for home use, 504,246; registered borrowers, 24,012.

Memorial Hall library, Andover, Mass., is said to be both a social center and an educational institution. It contains a total of 26,343v.; has 3309 borrowers' cards actually in use; a circulation of 46,189. The success of the library's work makes it difficult to administer the institution.

The building is a memorial to the soldiers of the Civil war and the work has greatly increased since it was started 50 years ago. Larger quarters are very seriously needed.

The annual report of the Public library, Hudson, Mass., stresses the great service and satisfaction that have been the portion of this small library in the past year because of increase in the number of magazines received. "The articles are timely and varied in scope and appeal because of their brevity." Inadequacy of space for children's work is noted and plans are proposed for enlargement. Notable gifts and loans have added satisfaction to the work. Grateful recognition is made to the Worcester public library and Arnold arboretum for courtesy extended in inter-library loans.

Number of books on the shelves, 14,570; books lent for home use, 56,271; registered borrowers, 1064; population served, 7600.

The 1923 report of the Public library, Providence, R. I., records a circulation of 755,209v. from a stock of 287,861v.

Library service was extended during the year by the opening of a business branch in the rooms of the Providence Chamber of commerce; by two new sub-stations and enlarged quarters for the North End branch; by the establishment of book-wagon deliveries and the placing of a deposit of 800v. in the Providence Boy's club.

Weekly music notes contributed to one of the local papers increased the use of the library's music collection which now numbers about 10,000v. and pieces of music.

During the year, two members of the staff lectured in the library courses at the Rhode Island college of education. Mr Sherman treated the subject of Library administration and Miss Hazeltine, Work with children.

During the year, under Miss Hazeltine, work with children was extended. As supervisor of the younger portion of the reading public, she has placed the work of the library with young people on a more adequate basis. The work of the branches, the central library and the public schools has been coördinated as well as that in all educational institutions of the community.

## Central Atlantic

Laura Selkregg has resigned as librarian of the Public library, Oshkosh, Wis., to take a position in Pittsburgh.

Agnes Cowing, Pratt '02, has been made librarian of the annexes of the De Witt Clinton high school, New York City.

Howard Neeffe Schutt, N. Y. P. L. '21-22, has been appointed to the acquisition division of the New York public library.

Ruth Brown, N. Y. P. L. '22-23, has been appointed librarian of the law firm of Murray, Aldrich & Roberts, 37 Wall Street, New York City.

Harriet Dorothea MacPherson, N. Y. P. L. '16-17, has been appointed chief cataloger in the library of the College of the City of New York.

The fifteenth annual report of the Free public library, Elizabeth, N. J.,

records: Number of books on the shelves, 85,946; circulation, 335,380v.; borrowers' cards, 18,447. Receipts, \$47,427; expenditures, \$47,427—books and periodicals, \$7514; salaries, \$27,006.

The report notes the fact that development of the service has carried it beyond the original provisions of 11 years ago. The main building is said to be in immediate need of extension. There were six changes on the staff during the year.

Anna H. Perkins, for 21 years librarian of the Public library, Ilion, N. Y., died at her home in Hannibal, N. Y., March 20. Miss Perkins was a graduate of the Oswego normal school and was a teacher in the public schools of Ilion for 25 years before becoming the librarian. The newspapers of Ilion speak of Miss Perkins' character and service, both as a teacher and librarian, in the highest terms. "In this nearly half a century of active work in Ilion, she became known to all its older citizens who will respect her memory and hear of her death with deepest regret."

The report of the Public library, Buffalo, N. Y., shows: Registered borrowers, 171,503; home use of books, 2,093,604; reading room service to capacity limits. Receipts for the year, \$273,283, with the addition of \$12,670, received over the library counter; expenditures—salaries, library staff, \$124,686; books, \$55,102; binding, \$11,406.

Members of the staff have largely taken advantage of the New York state employees' retirement law.

The most important event of the year was the action of the city in granting funds for the erection of buildings for branch libraries throuout the city.

Class-room extension work continues to be one of the important activities. From this department, 651,776v. were loaned for home use. There were 21 depositories of books placed in industrial plants and 200 traveling libraries, 13,330v., were placed with a

great variety of groups—schools, institutions, clubs, camps, etc.

A year's experience with the library lunch room has proved it a success.

#### Central

A report from the Public library, Davenport, Iowa, states that the number of books lent in March equalled the number of inhabitants of the town.

Mrs Verna L. Pate, formerly of the Denver public library and more recently an assistant librarian of a business library in Chicago, has joined the catalog department of the Indianapolis public library, beginning April 16.

Donna E. Sullivan, Pittsburgh '21, supervisor of branches in the Public library, Flint, Mich., has been elected librarian of the Peter White library at Marquette, Michigan, to take effect May 1.

An opinion from the attorney-general of Iowa states that library property whose title lies with the city is not subject to taxation and street improvement abutting such property should be paid for out of city funds and not out of library funds.

Vera Tracy of Wilkes-Barré, Pa., has become children's librarian at the Public library, Hibbing, Minn. Hazel Long, formerly of the staff but who has for some time been with the Public library, Buhl, Mont., has returned to Hibbing to take charge of the South Hibbing library.

Dr and Mrs Archibald Church have given an endowment of \$100,000 for maintaining a medical library at Northwestern university, Chicago. Dr Church is one of the best known neurologists in the country and has been a member of the staff of the Northwestern medical school for 32 years.

Amy Winslow, N. Y. L. S. '16, chief of the technical department, Indianapolis public library, and Gretta Smith, Drexel '14, chief of the publications division of the same library, returned, April 1, from an 18 months' leave of absence which they spent in the Friends' Relief service in Vienna

and in travel in England and on the continent.

The University of Chicago is again considering the subject of a larger library building for the institution. Several plans are under discussion. One is to erect a monumental building in the center of the campus, and other plans look toward extension of library buildings already on the campus. These latter plans would proceed gradually, although equally far-reaching, with the idea of a new central building. The facilities proposed by any plan will provide reading room seats for over 3,000 students and room for 2,000,000 volumes.

A very attractive as well as effective display recently was the travel window arranged by the Hackley public library, Muskegon, Mich., in one of the leading department stores of that city. The central location of the store made it possible for the library to reach almost everyone in the town thru this book exhibit. The display was made up of books, travel posters and folders and suitable luggage and equipment. Posters sent by the European railway companies and the Canadian Pacific made a colorful background for the display, which attracted much attention.

A Public Library booth was one of the attractive features of the Home Complete exposition held in Indianapolis, April 7-12. On the back wall of the booth was painted a miniature many-colored house, built not of bricks but of books, and advertising the slogan "Build your house with books." On the garden walls at the sides were displayed books from the library on city planning, real estate, house plans and architecture, landscape gardening and gardens, furniture, interior decoration and domestic economy. Each of these exhibits was designated by a poster with a Mother Goose rhyme parodied for library use. As a result of this publicity, the librarians in charge of the booth on the opening evening received 112 applications for library cards.

The report of the Public library commission of Indiana records 262 visits to 178 public libraries and 68 school and institutional libraries. Organization assistance was given to 18 libraries, three new libraries were established and four new townships provided with library service. The commission assisted in 12 district meetings for librarians and library trustees at convenient centers thruout the state. The advantages of the county library idea were stressed in a number of counties by presentations, surveys, etc. Hearty coöperation with the Department of public instruction in the matter of coördination of rural school work and rural library service was encouraged.

Every county in Indiana but one, Crawford, now has at least one public library. County-wide service is given in 13 counties and two-thirds of the people of the state have library privileges. The state now has 216 regular tax-supported public libraries.

#### South

The Junior college of Wichita Falls, Texas, has just organized a new library, the gift of Mr and Mrs C. W. Snyder of that city.

Esther L. Bergen, for some time in the catalog department, Public library, Decatur, Ill., has resigned to become head cataloger in the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Jean E. Cameron, for some time librarian of the Public library, Sedalia, Mo., has resigned, her resignation to take effect, June 1. Jane Morey, for two years in charge of the State traveling libraries, of Jefferson City, Missouri, has been elected to succeed Miss Cameron.

The press of Louisville, Ky., reports that in the new appraisal of real estate which has taken place in the city, the value of the property which the library owns and from which it has had a rental of \$36,000 a year has been increased so that the rental hereafter will be approximately \$72,000 a year.

Complying with a popular demand and a request from the library work-

ers in the city of Birmingham, Alabama, the Board of city commissioners of that city has ordered another bond election providing for issuance of \$650,000 in bonds for the construction of a new library. The vote will be taken, May 13.

The report of the Public library, Muskogee, Okla., records: Circulation, 143,259v.; books on the shelves, 25,149; registered borrowers, 11,509. For a fee of \$1 a year, persons from surrounding territory are registered, the books, in most cases, being mailed to the borrowers. The library receives 153 periodicals and 12 newspapers. Classes from high schools and ward schools, thruout the year, have come to the library for instruction in the use of a library and library tools. A total of 78 meetings were held in the club rooms of the library building. Receipts for the year, \$18,605; expenditures, \$12,403.

The annual report of the Georgia library commission thru its secretary, Beverly Wheatcroft, records 21 public library and nine school visits made during the year, exclusive of visits to university and normal schools; extensive correspondence carried on with regard to better organization; traveling library collection of 1070v. divided into 20 community and 27 school libraries; 116 traveling libraries, totaling 3838v. circulated; total circulation thru traveling libraries reached 23,000v.

Much work was carried on by correspondence, particularly in general loan and reference work. A total of 10,777v. was sent out in answer to 3014 calls for material. Books have gone to 549 post offices in 150 of the 160 counties of the state and a strong appeal for larger appropriation is made, since the work is growing beyond the present provision of \$6,000.

In a list of talks on social and civic subjects, issued by the Speakers' bureau of the Community council of St. Louis, 10 present or former members of the Public library staff are among the 50 speakers listed. Of

these, Dr Bostwick, the librarian, offers a talk on The services of the library to the community; Lucius H. Cannon, of the Municipal Reference branch, one on The Municipal Reference library and community work; Charles H. Compton, assistant librarian, on The Public library and adult education; Dr Harriet Cory, medical officer, on Psychological aspects of social hygiene; Margaret Curran, librarian, Divoll branch, on Library work with delinquent children; Margery Doud, librarian, Carondelet branch, on Branch libraries in school buildings; Antoinette Douglas, chief of the art department, on The Art work of the public library; Josephine Gratia, librarian, Soulard branch, on Library work with the foreign born, and Mrs Anna P. Mason, supervisor of work with children, on Children's literature and Story-telling. Mary Powell, formerly chief of the art department and now head of the education department of the City art museum, is down for talks on Art and the community and Our art museum.

#### West

The 1923 report of the Public library, Wichita, Kans., records an income of \$30,395; books on the shelves, 37,240, exclusive of thousands of pamphlets; home circulation, 311,538v. In four months, 33,408v. were circulated from the bookwagon to 30 schools. Under the new county library law, five communities contracted during the year for library service from Wichita. An average of more than 20 meetings a month were held in the library rooms. Extension classes and exhibits were also given space.

The report of the Free public library, Salt Lake City, Utah, shows a circulation for the past year of 624,480v. There has been a gain in membership and patronage thruout the system. The work, because of its rapid growth, is seriously handicapped by constant lack of funds and turn-over in the staff. The total membership is 43,046, which, with the number of books on the shelves, 115,762, a total

use of 898,906v., and a reading room attendance of 1,248,960, gives much perplexity to meet the situation with present equipment.

The library works thru 39 agencies and by mail last year supplied books to 55 Utah towns and 88 points in California, Idaho and Montana. Books are mailed to out-of-town patrons either thru other libraries or where cards have been guaranteed by a city taxpayer.

A number of valuable gifts were received during the year.

The staff lost five of its members during the year and with the loss of six the previous year, there is an unusual number of new staff members.

The income for the year was \$65,486, with an expenditure of \$64,012.

An interesting note from Miss Emma B. Alrich, Cawker City, Kan., states that she has just finished cataloging the remarkable public library of that place.

A Magazine club, formed 50 years ago, took up the work of supplying books to the town, in 1883, and now has a library of 3000 volumes. In 1884, the club erected a building near the center of the town and, while it is a public library, it has had no outside help nor appropriation from taxation. The enthusiasm of about 50 members keeps the library going.

The matter of taxation is a question that brings something of opposition when mentioned.

Miss Alrich is the only surviving member of the original organizers.

#### Pacific Coast

Dorothy Deacon, Cal. '19, formerly chief cataloger, University of Southern California, has become assistant librarian of the Kawai County library, Hawaii.

#### Canada

George H. Locke, chief librarian, Public library, Toronto, Canada, has been invited to make one of the principal addresses at the meeting of the British library association at Glasgow in September, 8-13.

#### Foreign

The 1923 annual report of the Public library, New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, records some notable additions during the year, among them original manuscripts of the navigator, Matthew Flinders; a collection of 500 letters from prominent persons to the late Oliver Bainbridge; a number of oil paintings and other items of local and general interest.

During the year, 1200 boxes of books containing 40,284v. were forwarded to 645 institutions in the country. Increase in the use of traveling libraries by children in small communities is most satisfying.

The average daily attendance for the year was 649. This means that seating accommodations during many hours of every day are quite inadequate. Crowded conditions and unsatisfactory arrangements for further extension of the building are matters of deep concern.

The librarian, W. H. Ifould, was successful, in a visit to London, in acquiring a number of important documents relating to the voyages of Captain Cook, including the manuscript journal covering his first voyage when he explored the east coast of Australia.

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**Wanted**—Copy of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for January, 1921, to complete volume. Please send, with bill, to office of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

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**Wanted**—Position as high-school or college librarian in Missouri; 16 years' experience as same. S. A. D., Box 1255, Lamar, Mo.

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**For sale**—Two six-drawer standard cabinets, oak finish, no rods, Library Bureau make. Outside size, 28¾ in. wide, 15 in. high and 24 in. deep. \$10 each. Public library, Omaha, Nebr.

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A number of copies of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for December, 1920, are on file at the Library association, Portland, Oregon, and copies may be had on request to Anne M. Mulheron, librarian.